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Manganese-Catalyzed Selective Oxidation of Aliphatic C—H groups and Secondary Alcohols to Ketones with Hydrogen Peroxide

Jia Jia Dong,^[a] Duenpen Unjaroen,^[a] Francesco Mecozzi,^[a] Emma C. Harvey,^[a] Pattama Saisaha,^[a] Dirk Pijper,^[a] Johannes W. de Boer,^[b] Paul Alsters,^[c] Ben L. Feringa,^[a] and Wesley R. Browne^{*[a]}

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Caution. The drying or concentration of solutions that potentially contain H₂O₂ should be avoided. Prior to drying or concentrating, the presence of H₂O₂ should be tested for using peroxide test strips followed by neutralisation on NaHSO₃ or another suitable reducing agent. When working with H₂O₂, suitable protective safeguards should be in place at all times.


Caution. Butanedione has been linked with lung disease upon exposure to vapours. It should be handled in a properly ventilated fumehood and exposure to vapours should be avoided.


Note. All reagents are of commercial grade and used as received unless stated otherwise.

1. General Procedures and methods

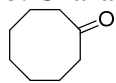
Chromatography: Merck silica gel type 9385 230–400 mesh, TLC: Merck silica gel 60, 0.25 mm, with visualization by UV, cerium/molybdenum or potassium permanganate staining. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian AMX400 (400 and 100.59 MHz, respectively) in CD₃CN or CDCl₃. Chemical shift values are reported in ppm with the resonance solvent signal as the internal reference (CHCl₃: 7.26 for ¹H, 77.0 for ¹³C). Data are reported as follows: chemical shifts, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, br = broad, m = multiplet), coupling constants (Hz), and relative integration. ¹³C spectra were assigned based on APT ¹³C-NMR spectroscopy.

2. Examples of reactions at > 1g scale

Isoborneol (4 g)  was added to a solution of Mn^{II}(ClO₄)₂·6H₂O (0.01 mol %), pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (0.5 mol %), NaOAc (aq. 0.6 M, 1 mol %) and butanedione (0.5 equiv.) in acetonitrile to give a final substrate concentration of 0.5 M. The solution was cooled in an ice/water bath before addition of H₂O₂ (50 wt. %, 3.0 equiv.) and the temperature was allowed to rise overnight with stirring. Brine was added to the reaction mixture and the product and any unreacted isoborneol extracted with dichloromethane (3 by 10 mL). The combined organic layers were reduced *in vacuo*, with residual dichloromethane stripped *in*

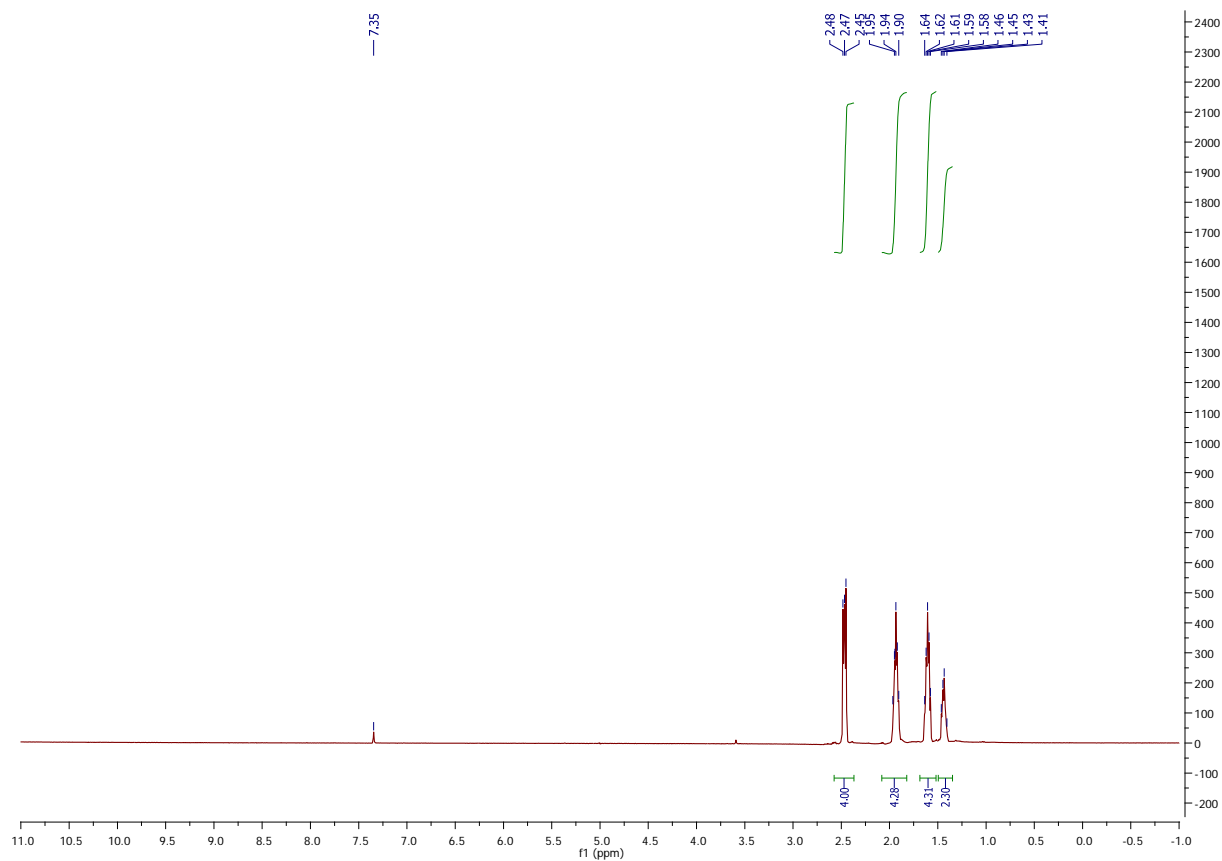
vacuo by addition of acetonitrile. Isoborneol was converted (63%) with full selectivity towards camphor . The crude mixture was subjected to the same reaction conditions resulting in full conversion of the isoborneol. Camphor was isolated in 87 % yield (3.45 g) after purification by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ether = 9/1, R_f = 0.3). The product was characterised by ¹H NMR spectroscopy (vide infra).

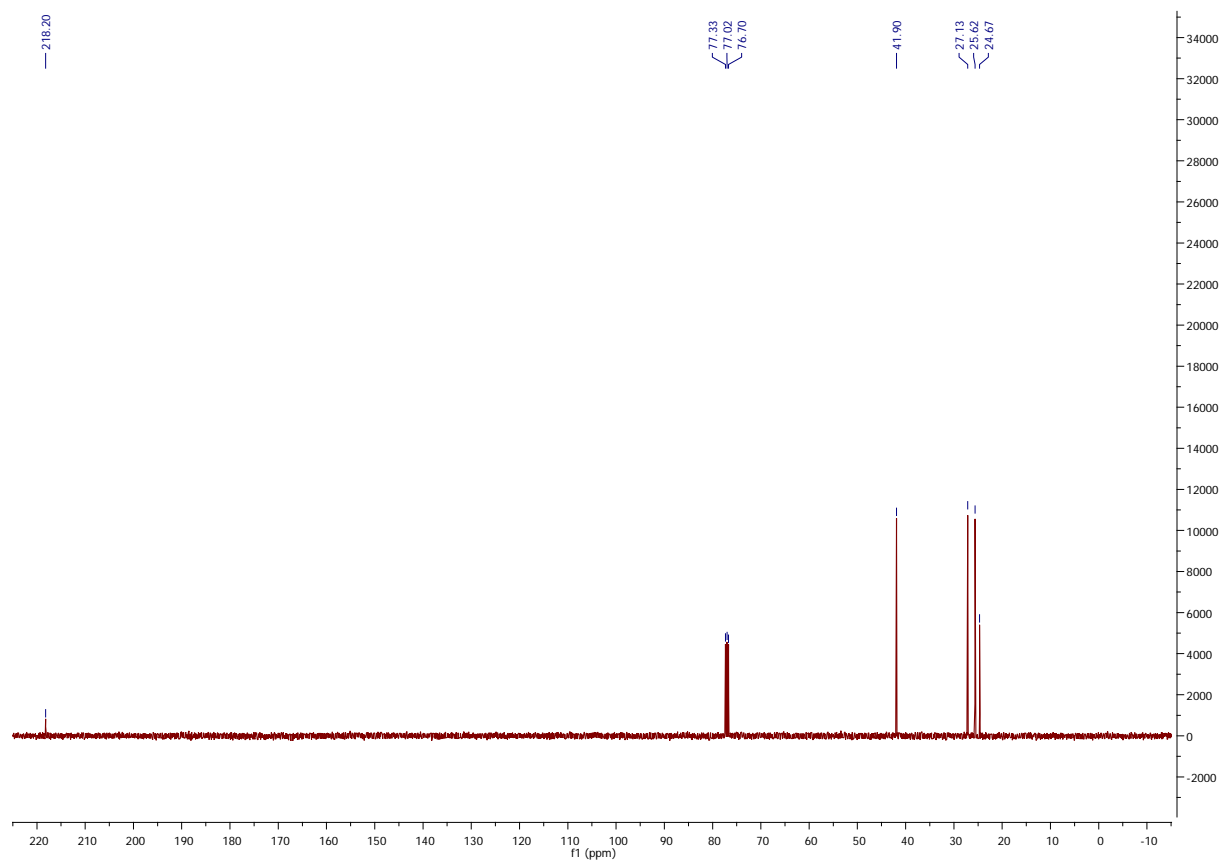
3. Characterization of isolated products



Cyclooctanone (Table 1, entry 2) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (dichloromethane/ether = 9:1, R_f = 0.5). The title compound was obtained as a colorless oil (78% isolated yield).

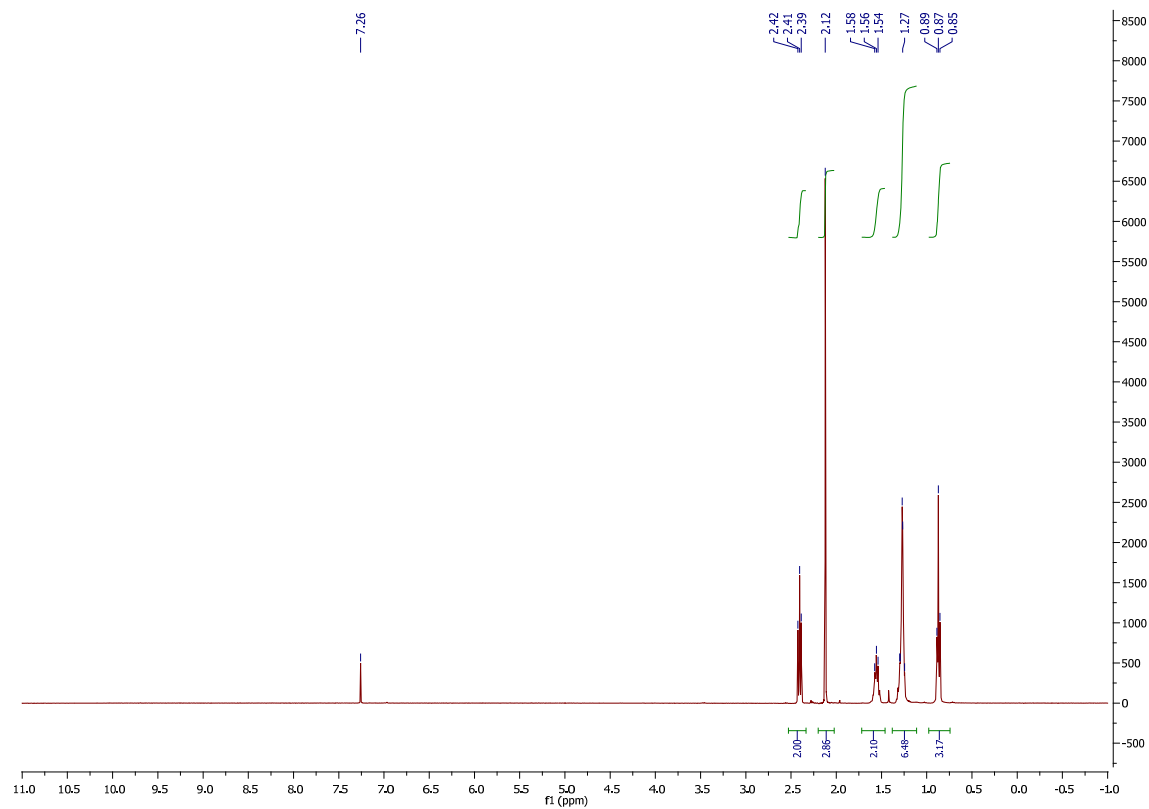
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.47 (m, 4H), 1.94 (m, 4H), 1.62 (m, 4H), 1.43 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 218.2, 41.9, 27.1, 25.6, 24.7.

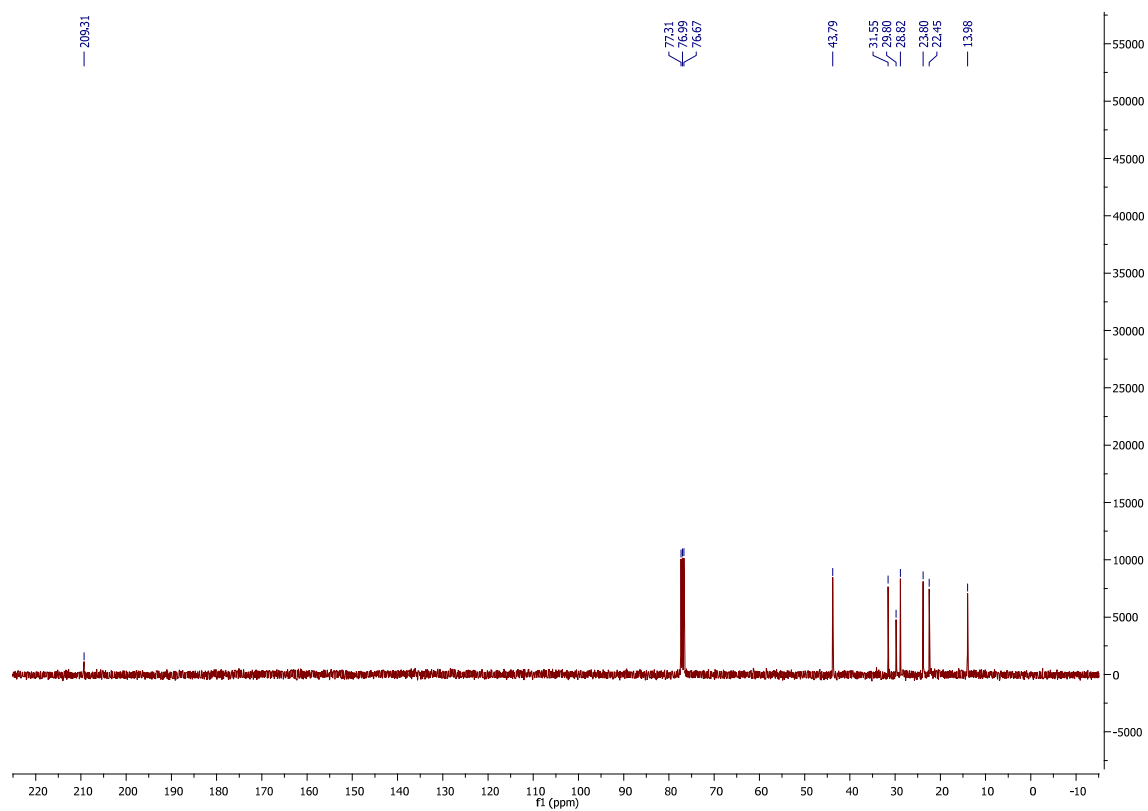




CCCCCCCC(=O)C **2-Octanone** (Table 1, entry 3) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ether = 9:1, R_f = 0.5). The title compound was obtained as a colorless oil (88% yield).

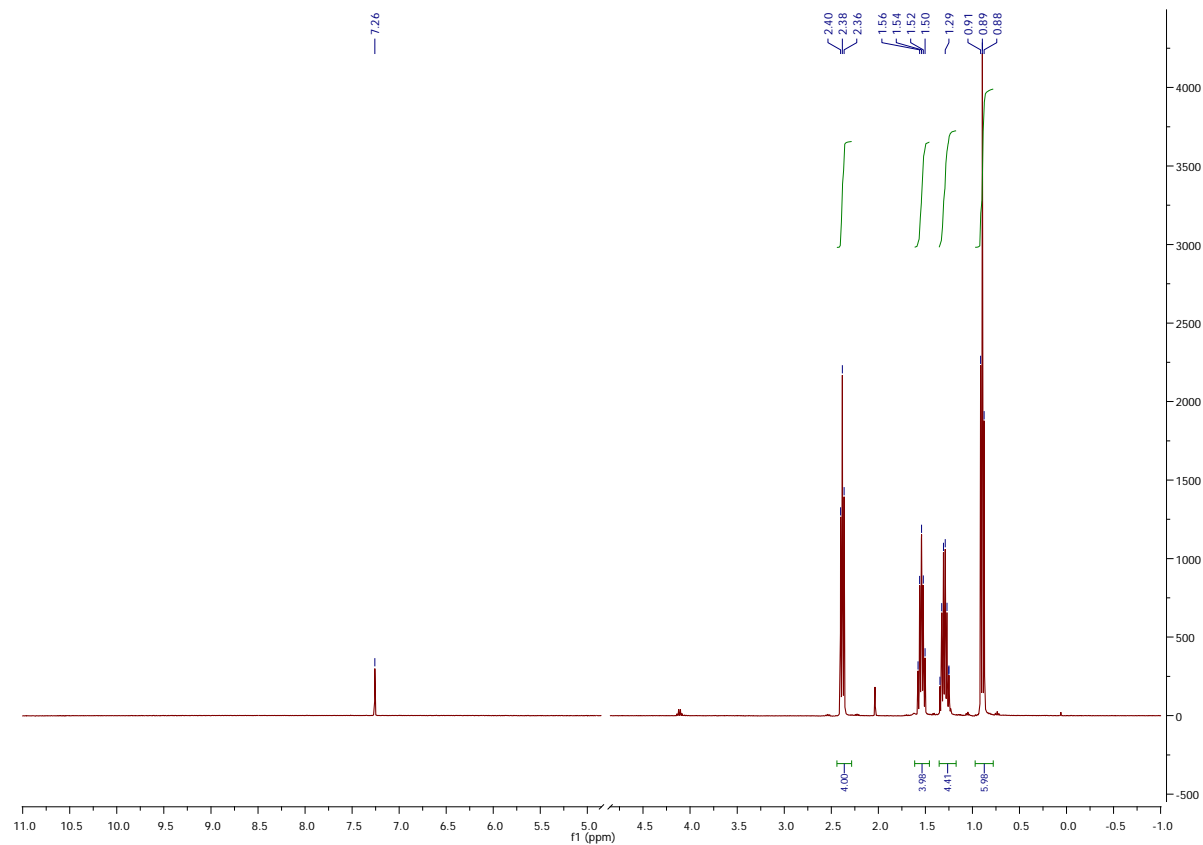
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.41 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.12 (s, 3H), 1.56 (m, 2H), 1.27 (br, 6H, CH₂), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H);
¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 209.3, 43.8, 31.6, 29.8, 28.8, 23.8, 22.4, 14.0.

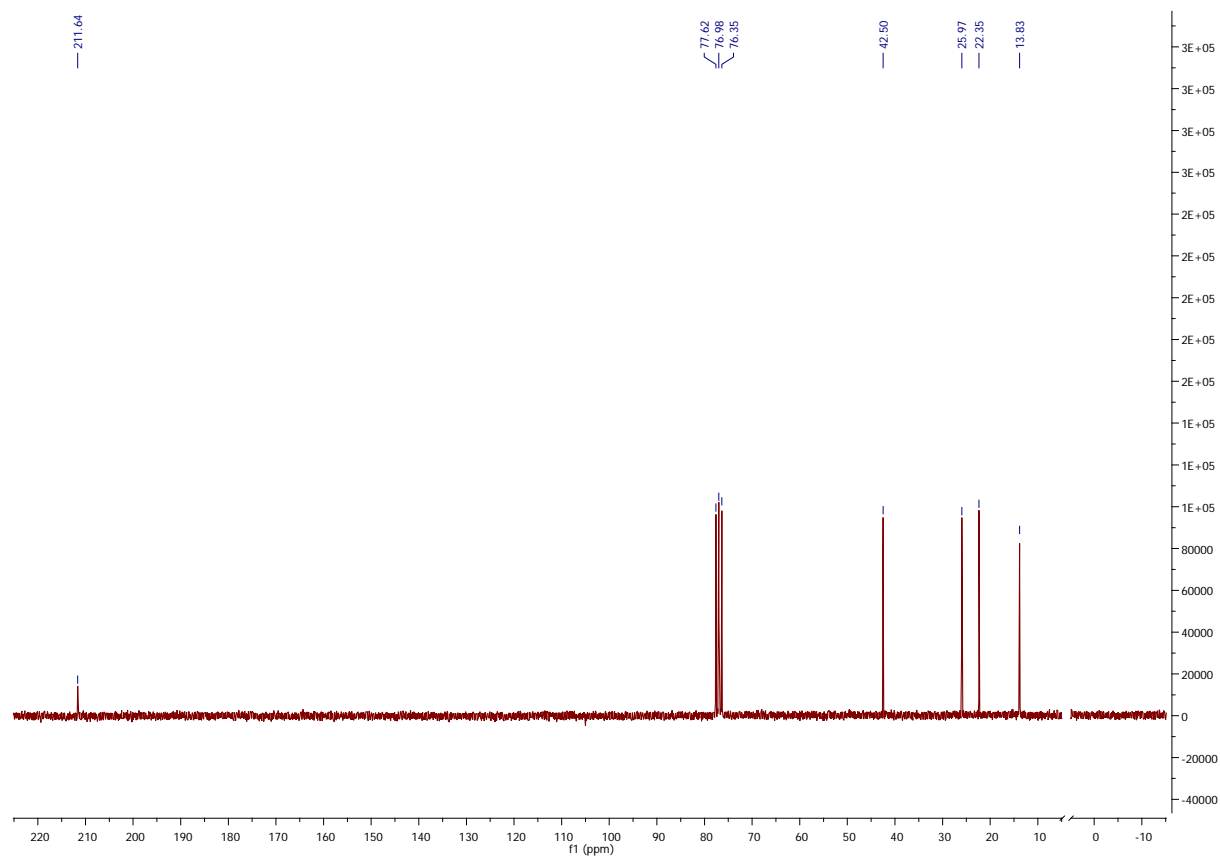




CCCCCCCC(=O)CCCC **Nonan-5-one** (Table 1, entry 4) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ether = 95/5, R_f = 0.5). The title compound was obtained as a colorless oil (72% yield).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.40-2.36 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.58-1.50 (q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.35-1.25 (sextuplet, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 0.91-0.88 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 6H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 211.6, 42.5, 26.0, 22.3, 13.8.

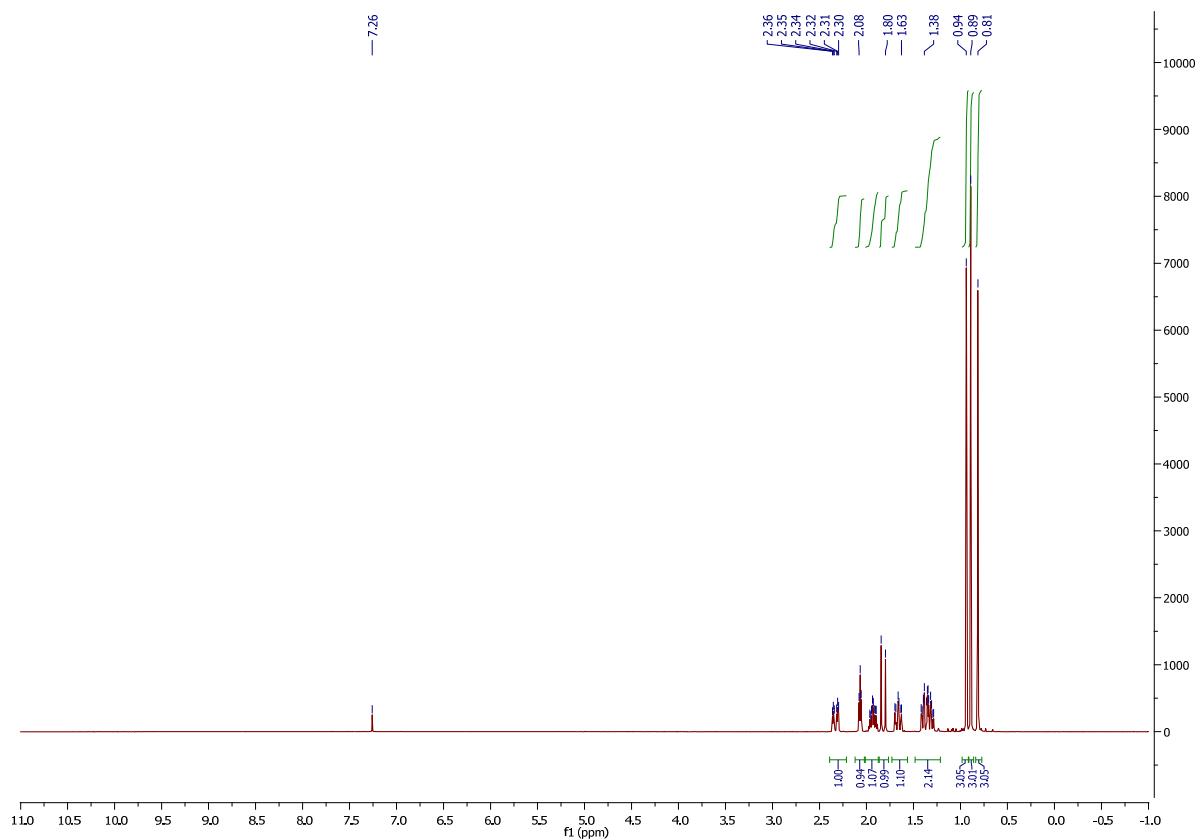


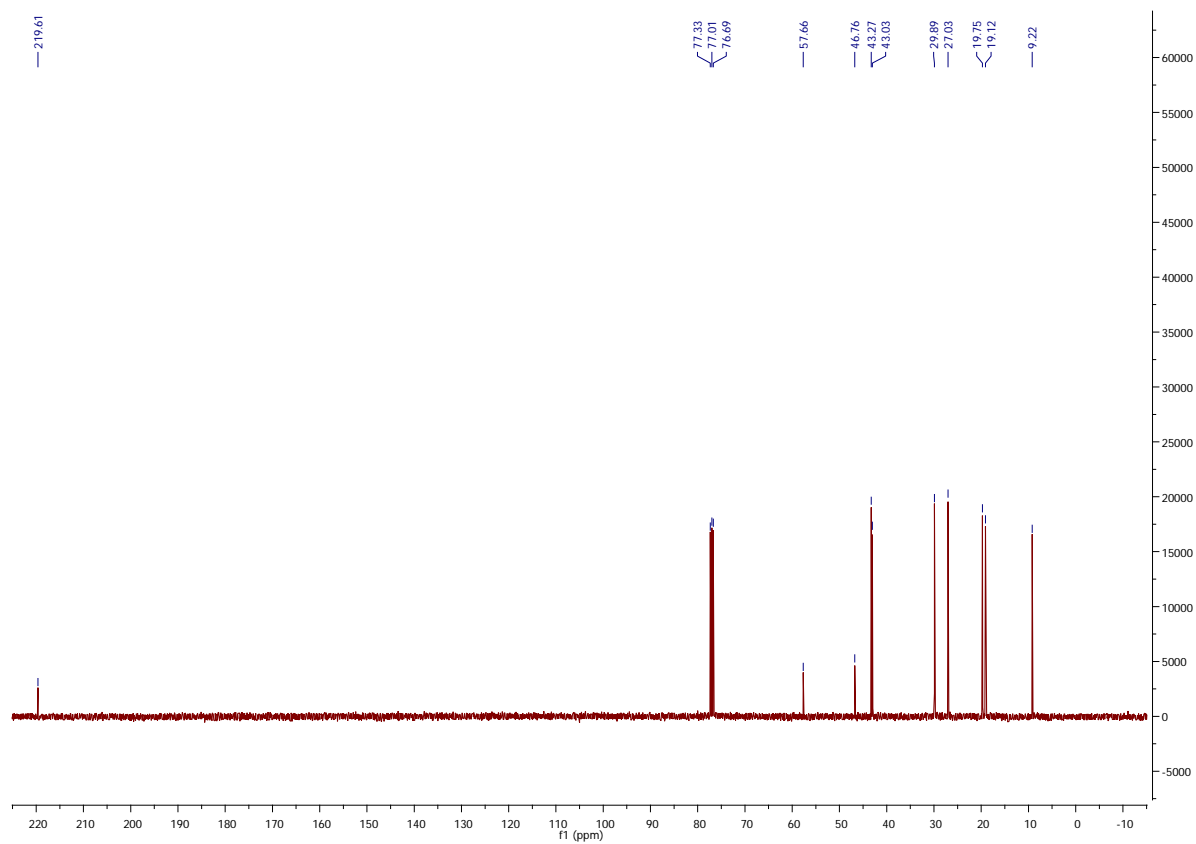
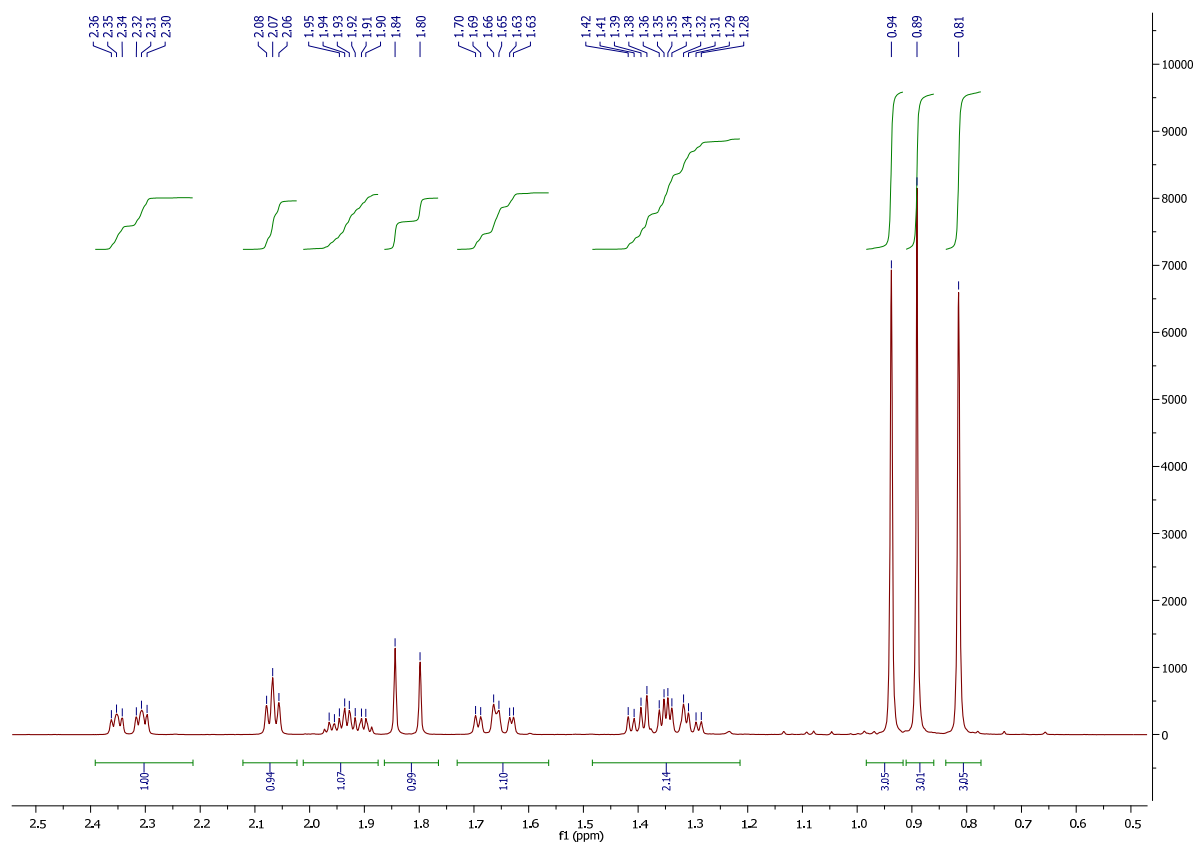




Camphor (Table 1, entry 6) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ether = 9/1, R_f = 0.3). The title compound was obtained as a white solid (95% yield).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.36-2.30 (m, 1H), 2.08 (t, J = 4.5, 1H), 1.96-1.90 (m, 1H), 1.83 (d, J = 18.2, 1H), 1.70-1.63 (m, 1H), 1.42-1.28 (m, 2H), 0.94 (s, 3H), 0.89 (s, 3H), 0.81 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 219.6, 57.7, 46.8, 43.2, 43.0, 29.9, 27.0, 19.8, 19.1, 9.2.

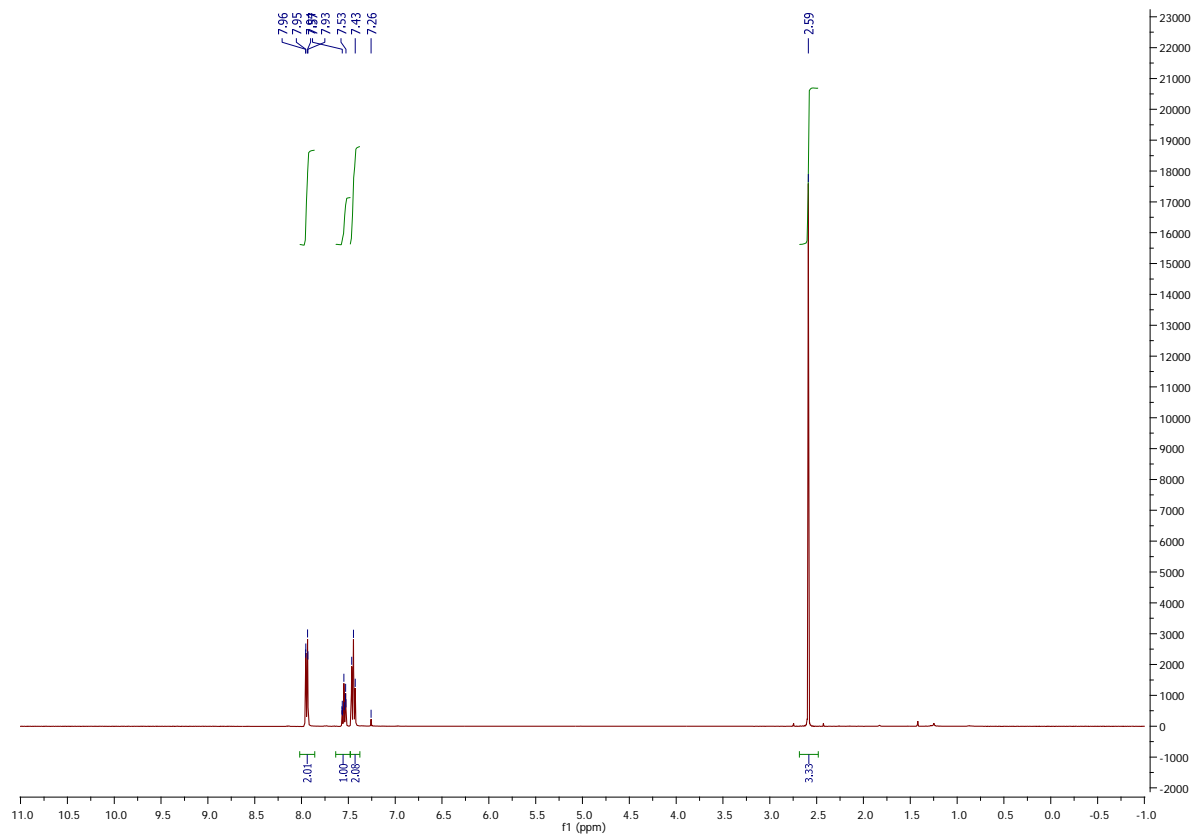


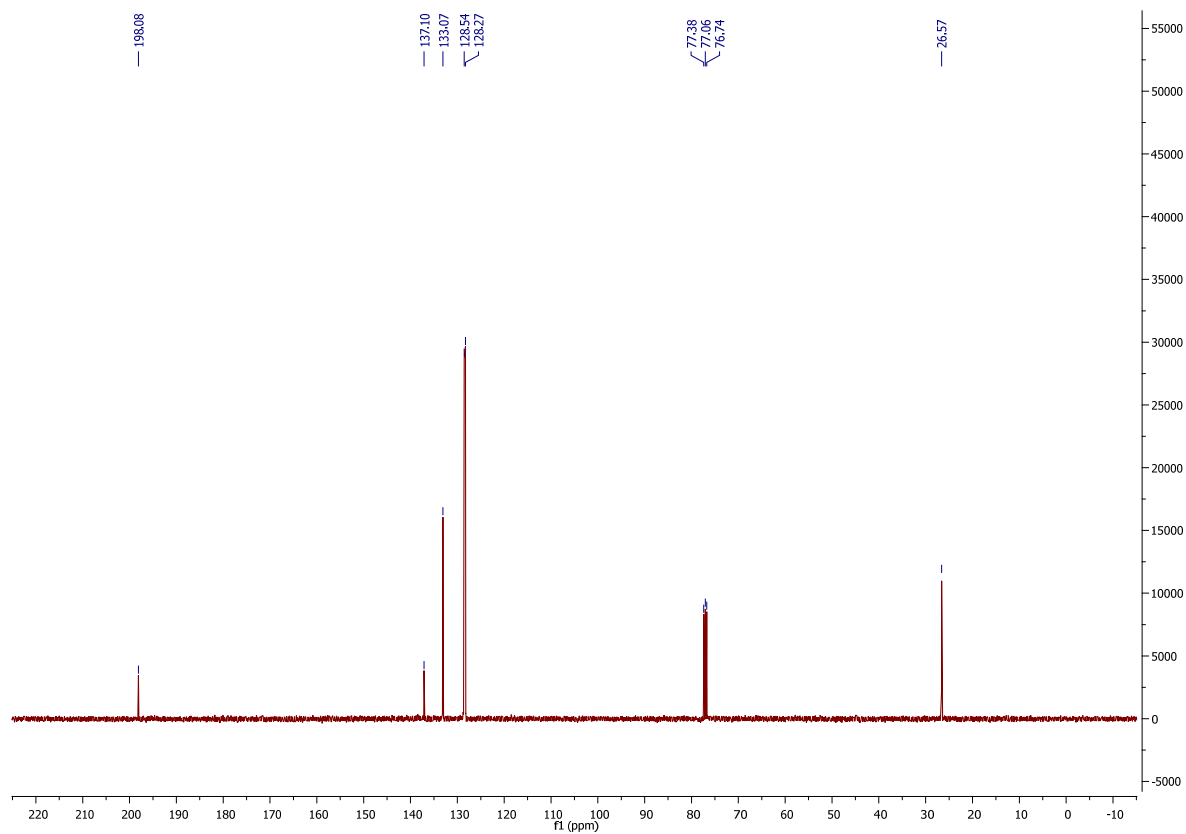


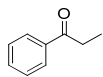


Acetophenone (Table 1, entry 7) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ether = 9/1, R_f = 0.3). The title compound was obtained as a colorless oil (90% yield).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.96-7.03 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 2H), 2.59 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.1, 137.1, 133.1, 128.5, 128.3, 26.6.

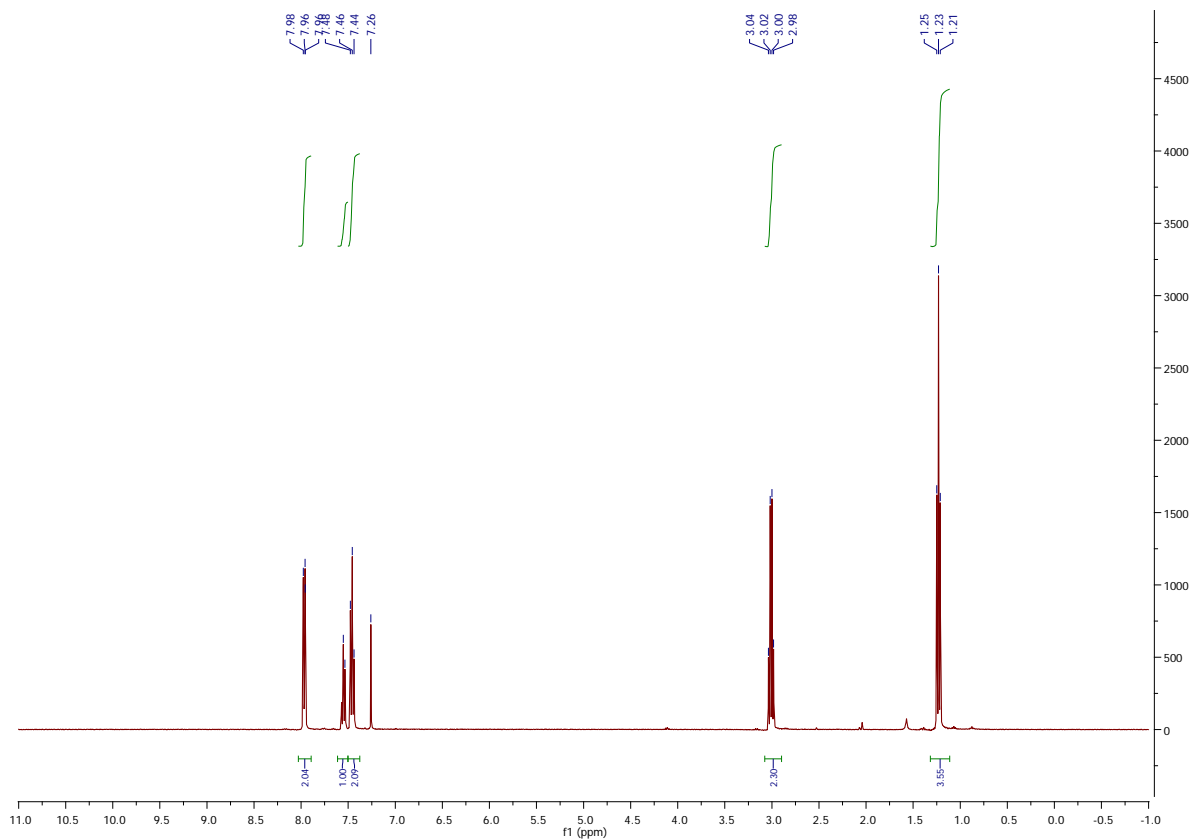


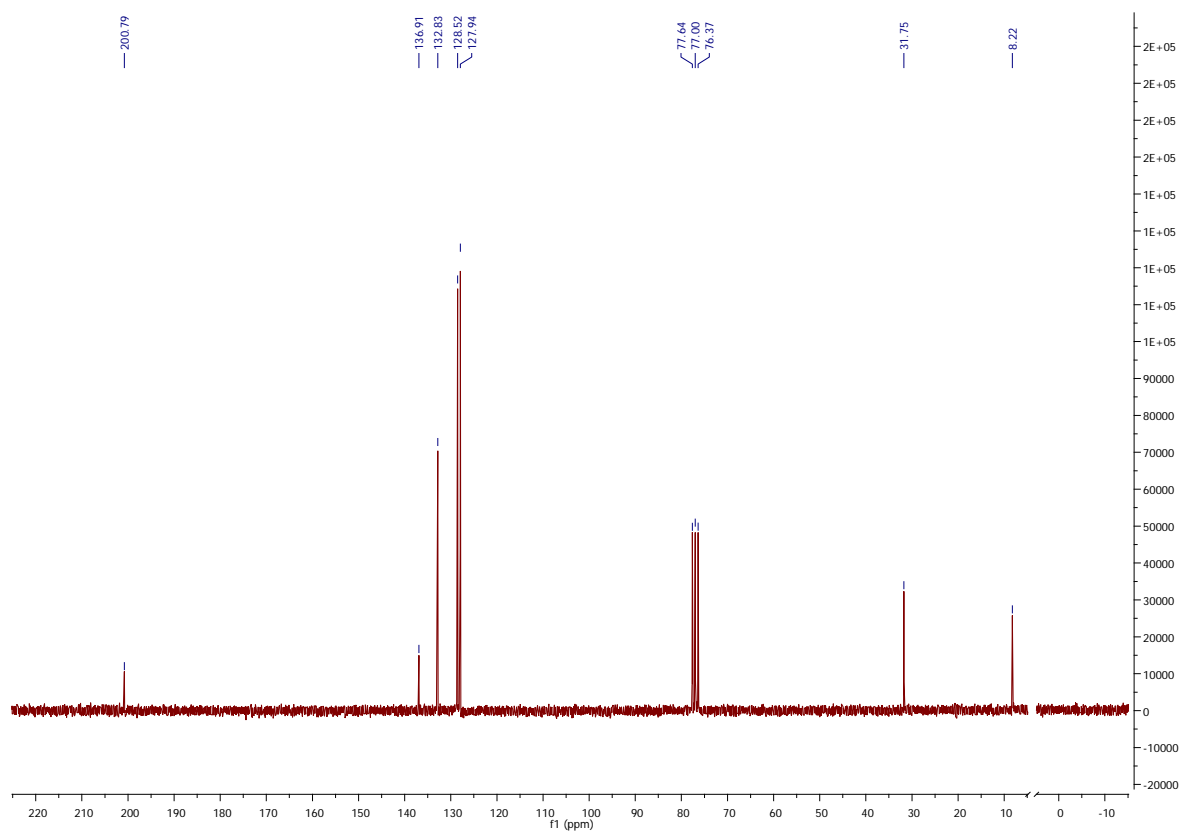


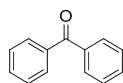


Propiophenone (Table 1, entry 8) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ethyl acetate = 95/5, $R_f = 0.5$). The title compound was obtained as a colorless oil (77% yield).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.98-7.96 (m, 2H), 7.57-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 2H), 3.04-2.98 (q, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2H), 1.25-1.21 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 200.8, 136.9, 132.8, 128.5, 127.9, 31.8, 8.2.

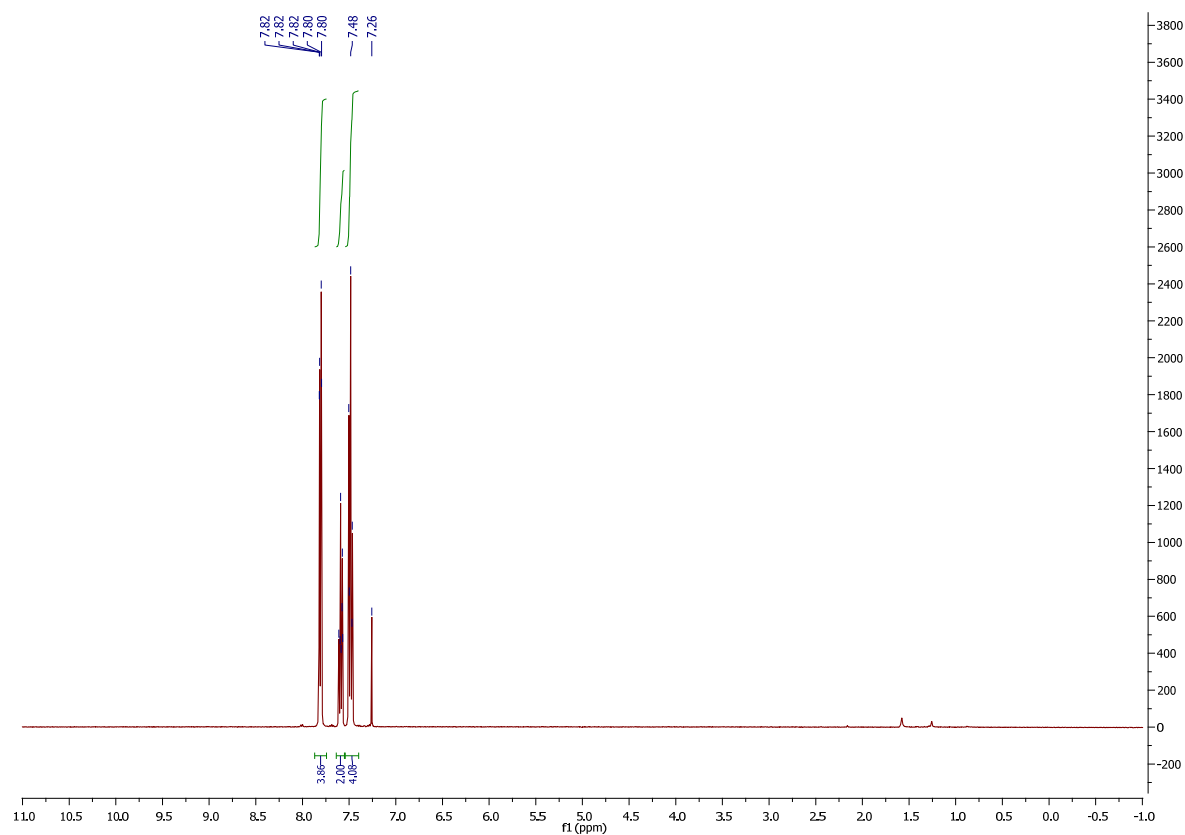


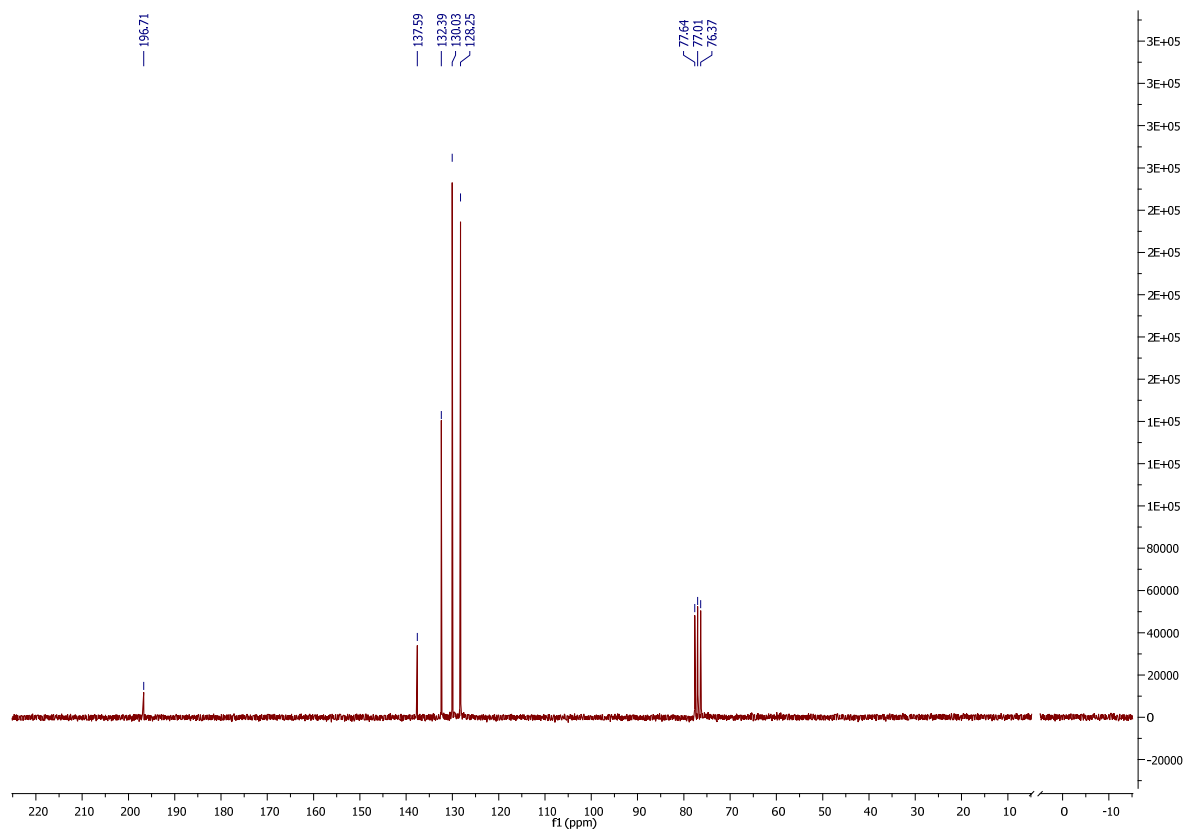




Benzophenone (Table 1, entry 9) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ethyl acetate = 95/5, $R_f = 0.5$). The title compound was obtained as a colorless oil (80% yield).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.82-7.80 (m, 4H), 7.61-7.57 (m, 2H), 7.50-7.47 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 196.7, 137.6, 132.4, 130.0, 128.3.

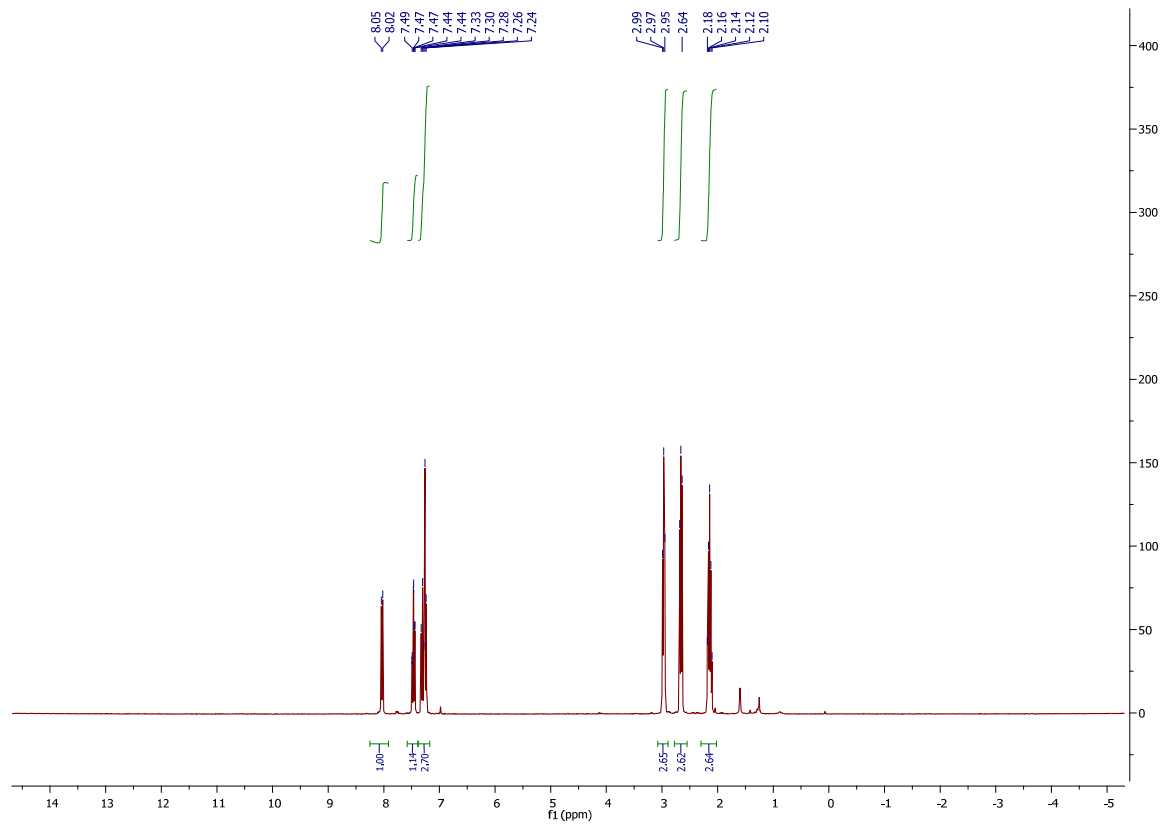


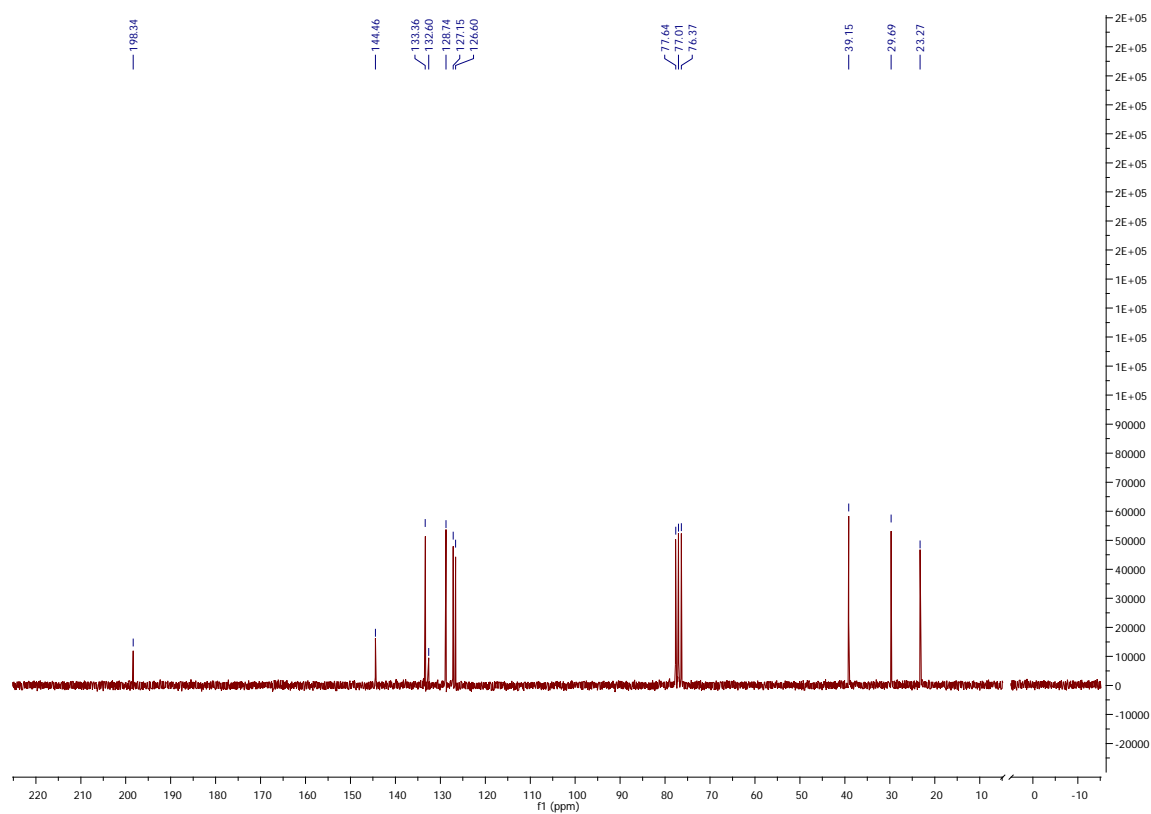


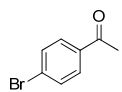


3,4-dihydronaphthalen-1(2H)-one (Table 1, entry 10) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ethyl acetate = 95/5, R_f = 0.5). The title compound was obtained as a yellowish oil (75% yield).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.05-8.02 (m, 1H), 7.49-7.44 (m, 1H), 7.33-7.24 (m, 2H), 2.99-2.95 (t, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 2.68-2.64 (dd, J = 6.2 Hz, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.18-2.10 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 198.3, 144.4, 133.4, 132.6, 128.7, 127.2, 126.6, 39.2, 29.7, 23.3.

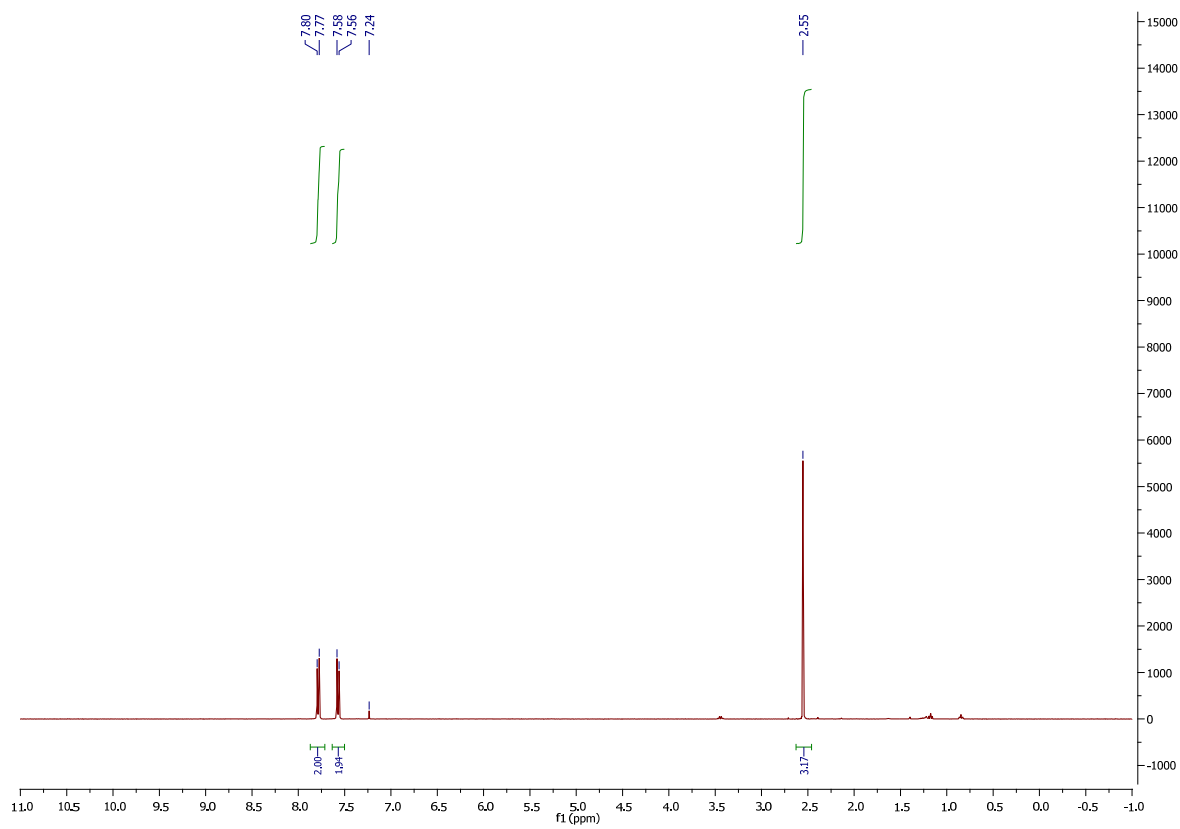


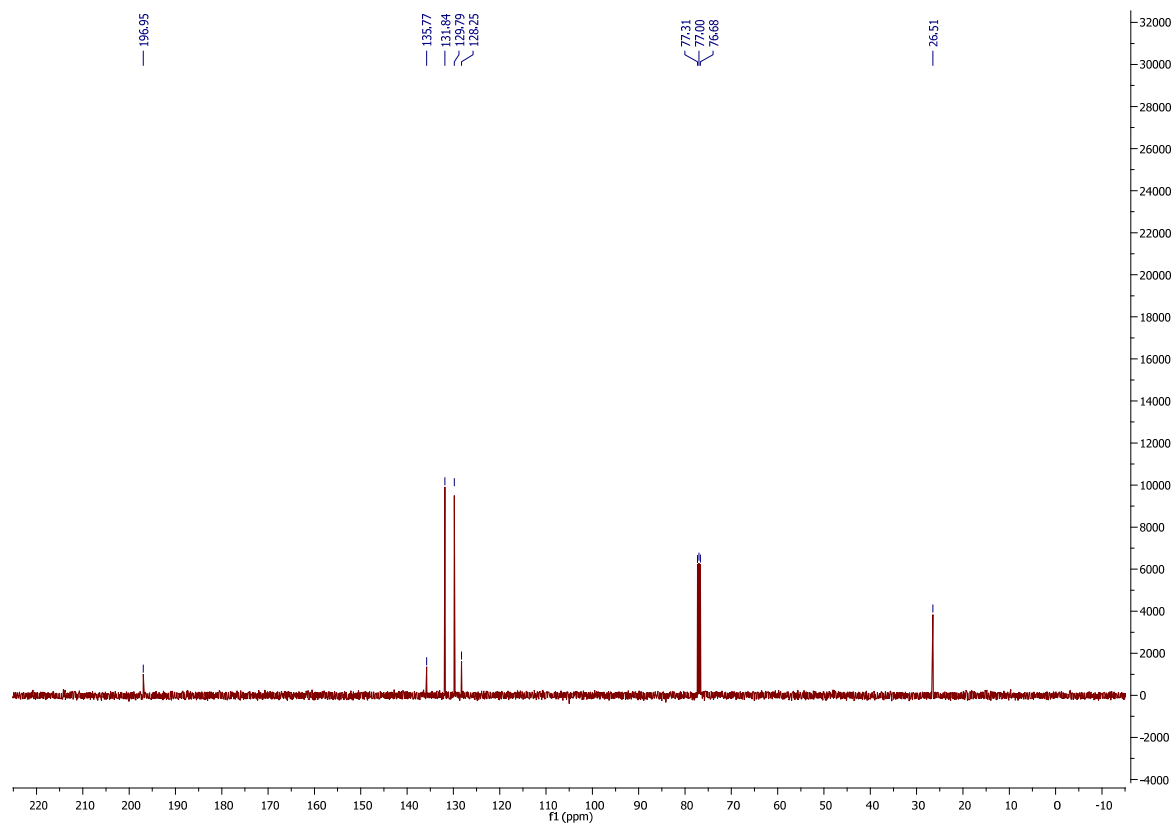


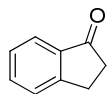


1-(4-Bromophenyl)ethanone (Table 1, entry 12) (missing) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ether = 9/1, R_f = 0.5). The title compound was obtained as white solid (76% yield).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.80-7.77 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.58-7.56 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 197.0, 135.8, 131.8, 129.8, 128.2, 26.5.

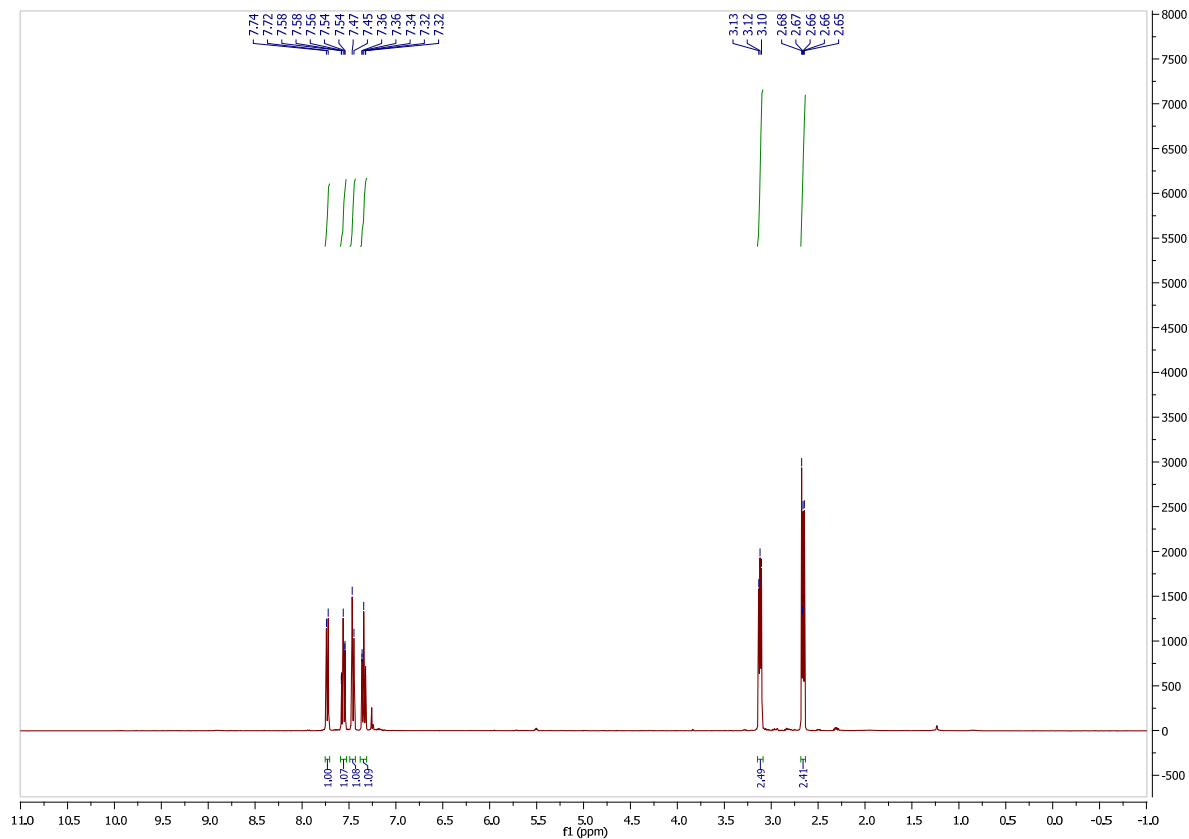


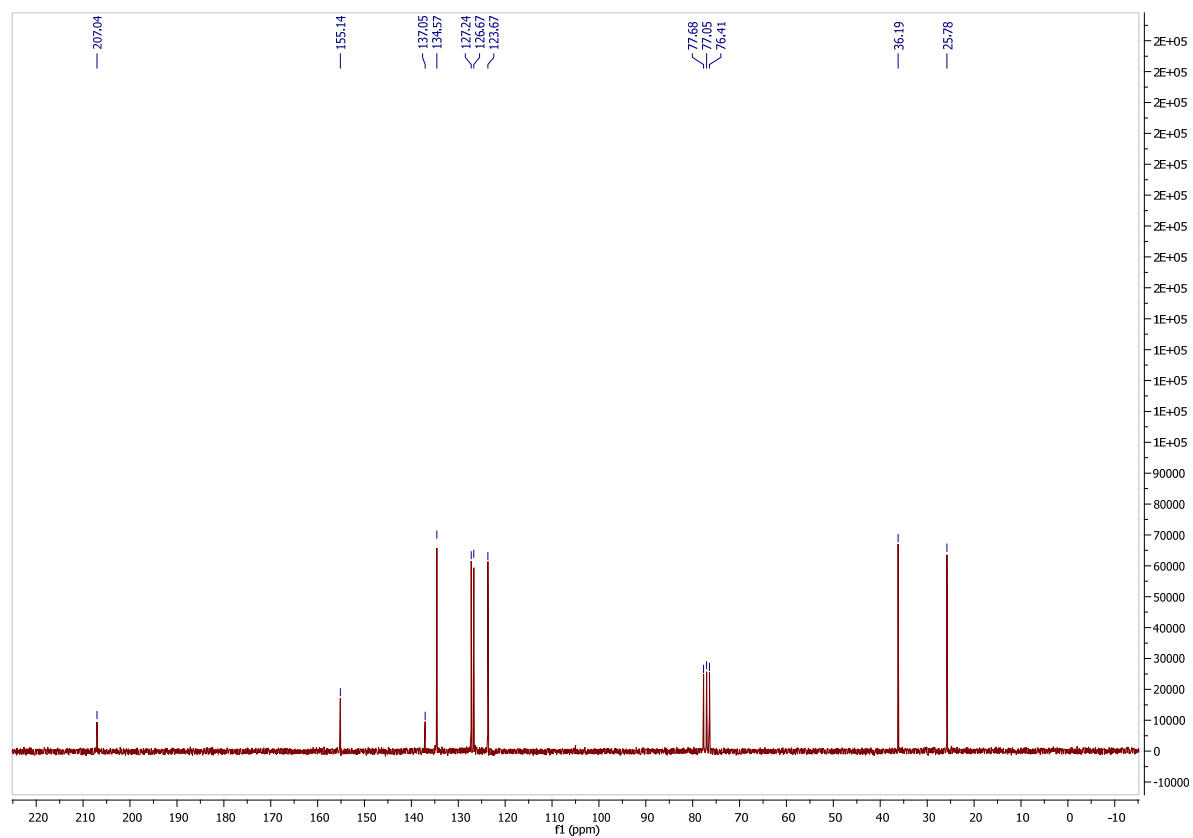


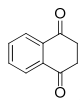


2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1-one (Table 2, entry 5) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ether = 80/20), $R_f = 0.5$). The title compound was obtained as a yellow oil (60% yield).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.76-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.60-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.46 (m, 1H), 7.38-7.34 (m, 1H), 3.13-3.10 (dd, $J = 5.6$ Hz, $J = 6.1$ Hz, 2H), 2.68-2.65 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 207.0, 155.1, 137.1, 134.6, 127.2, 126.7, 123.7, 36.2, 25.8.

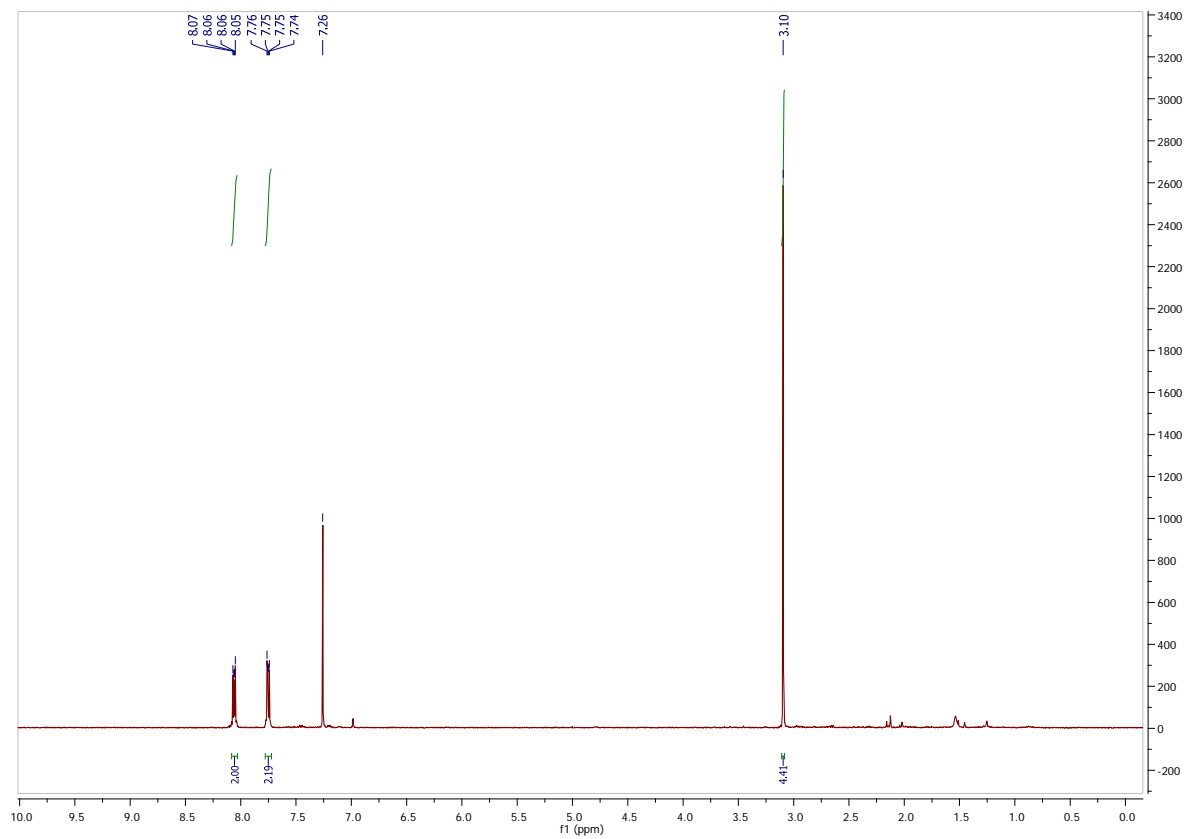


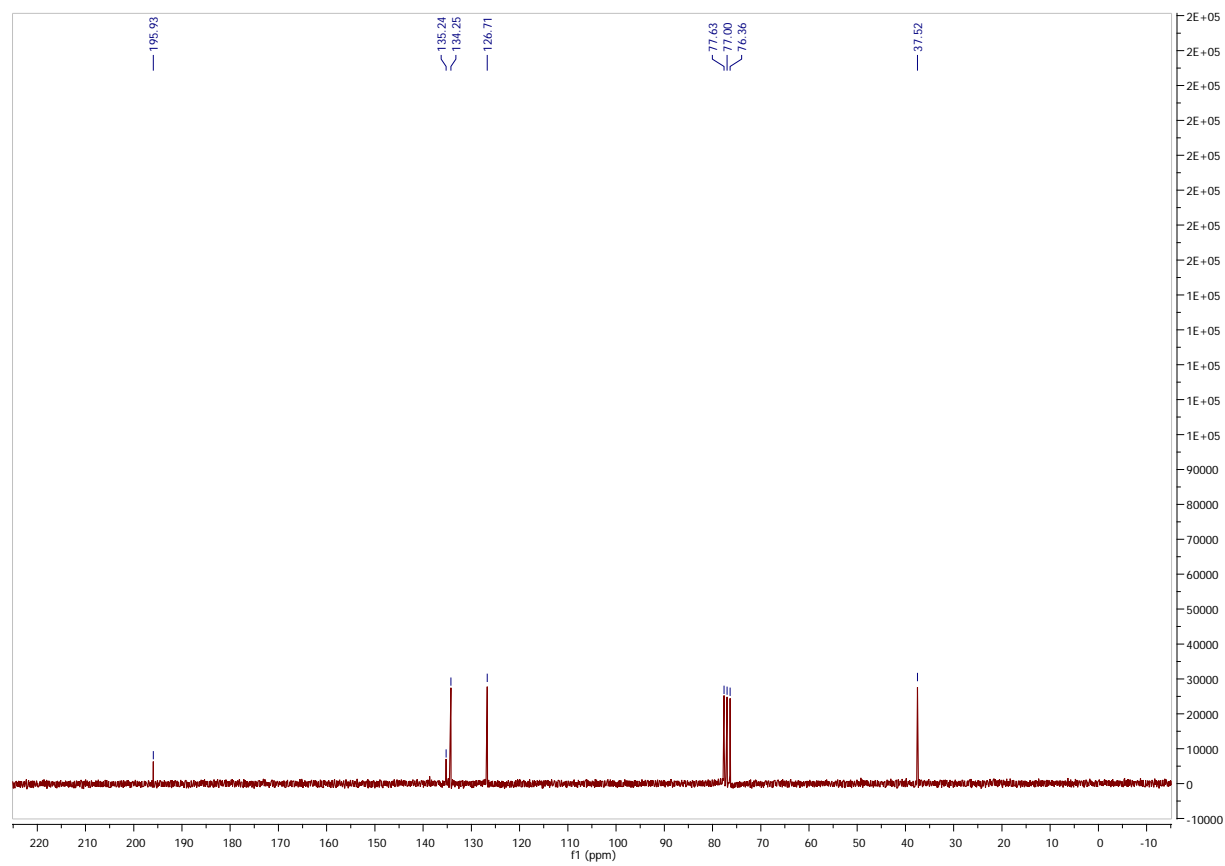


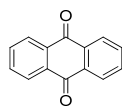


2,3-dihydronaphthalene-1,4-dione (Table 2, entry 6) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ether = 80/20), R_f = 0.5). The title compound was obtained as a yellow oil (25% yield).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07-8.05 (m, 2H), 7.76-7.74 (m, 2H), 3.10 (s, 4H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 195.9, 135.2, 134.3, 126.7, 37.5.

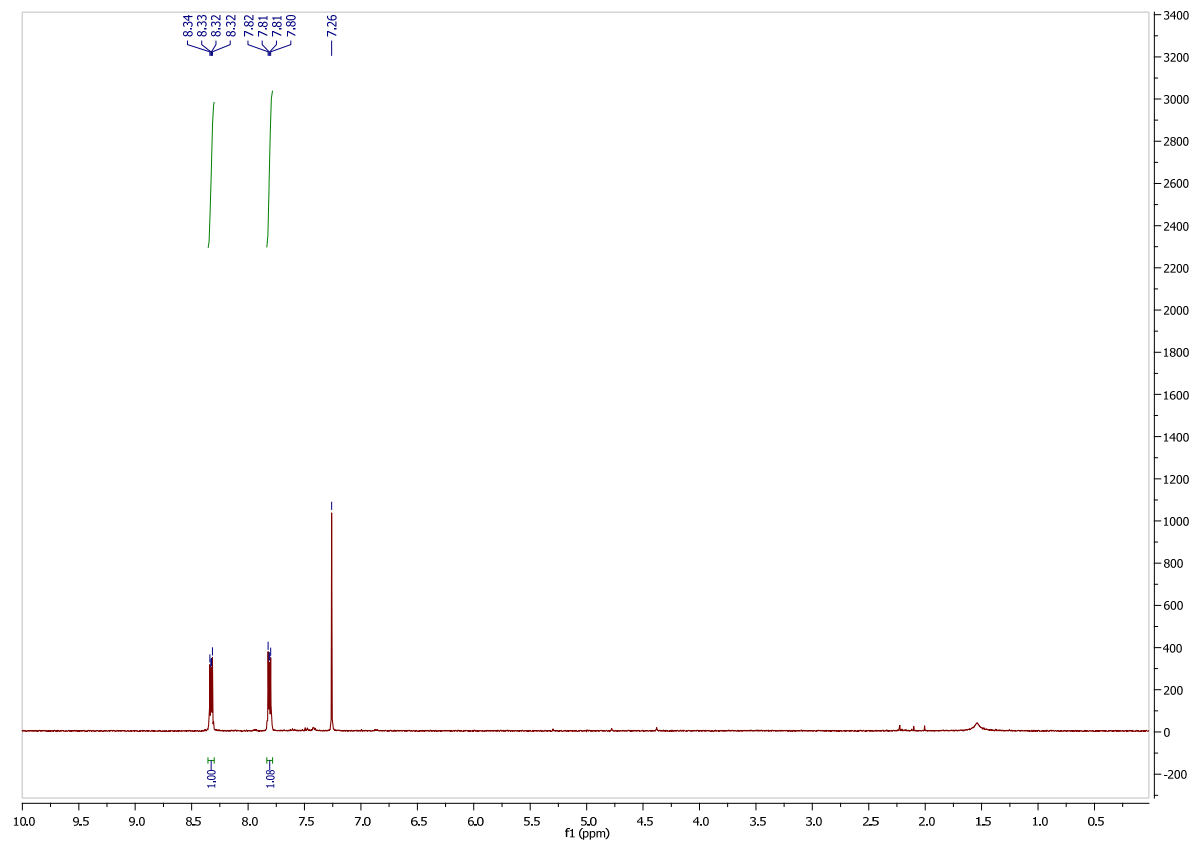


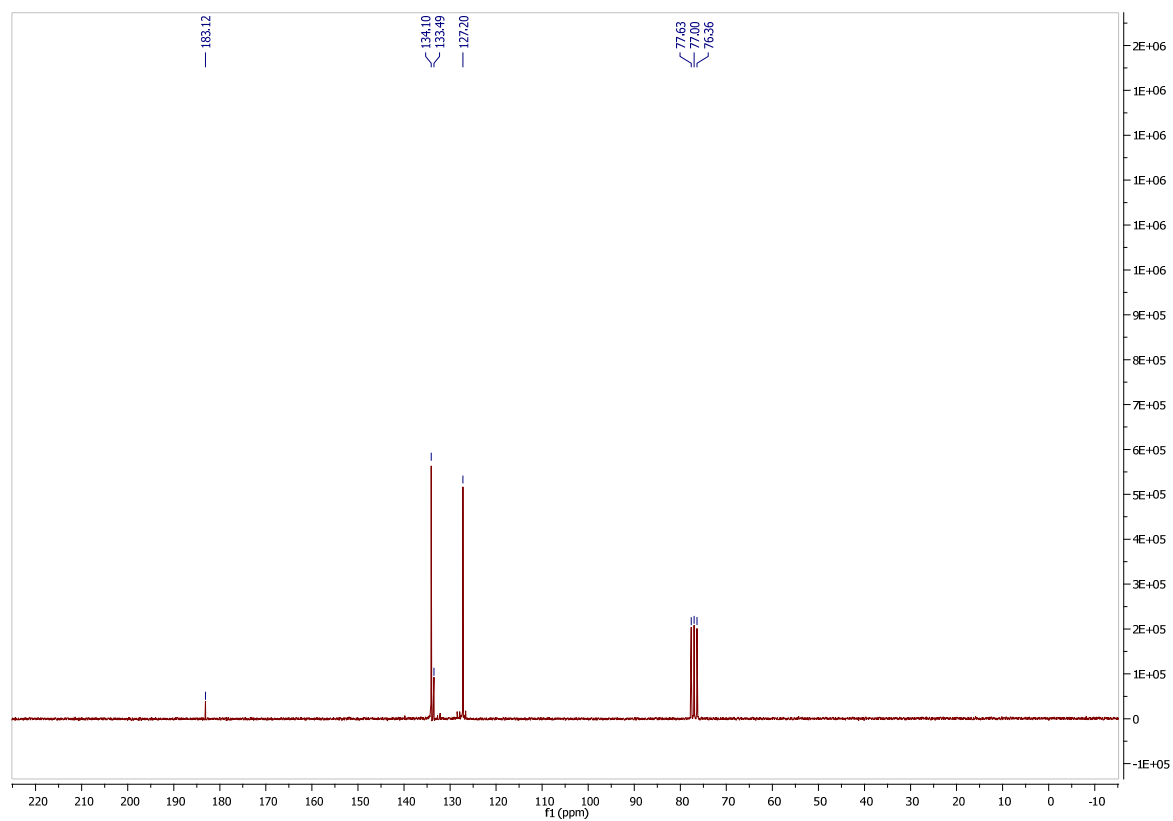


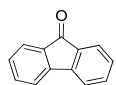


anthracene-9,10-dione (Table 2, entry 7) Isolated directly after workup without purification. The title compound was obtained as an orange solid (99% yield).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.34-8.32 (m, 4H), 7.82-7.80 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 183.1, 134.1, 133.5, 127.2.

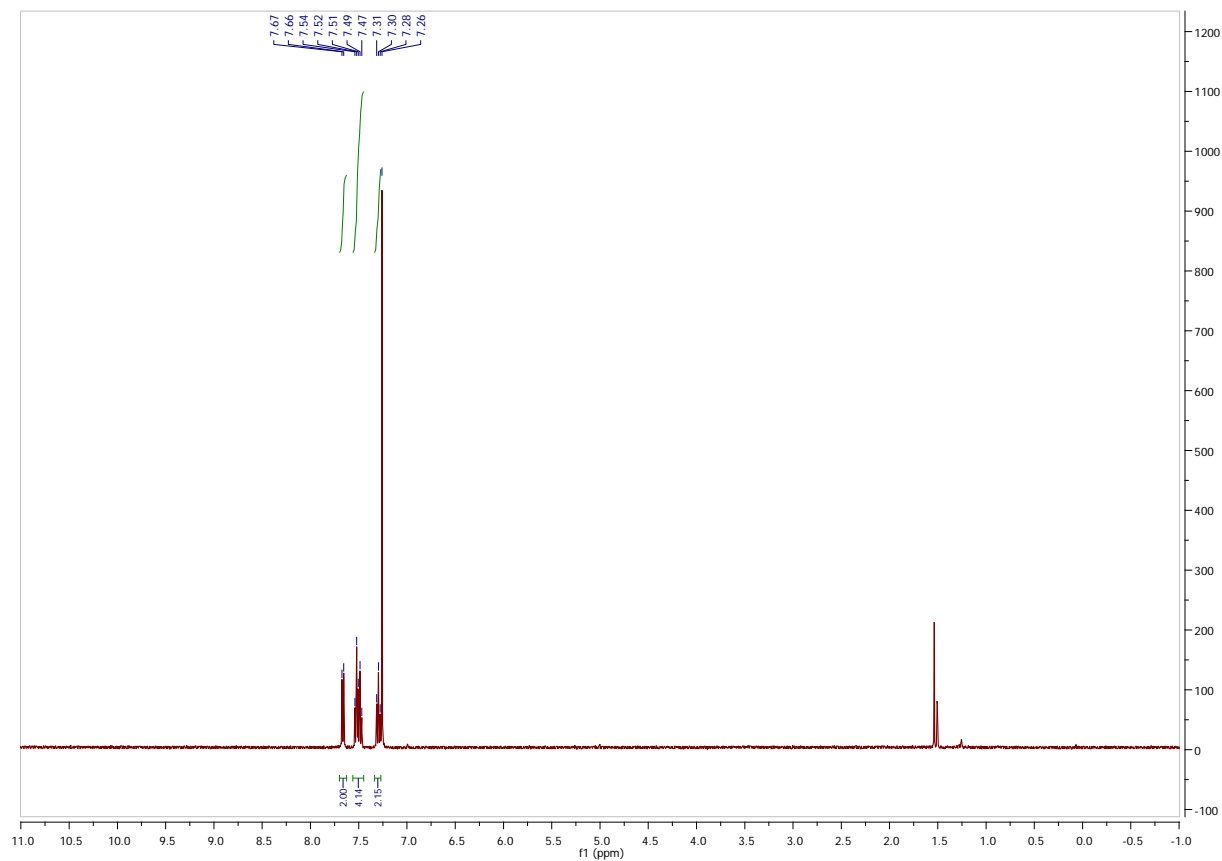


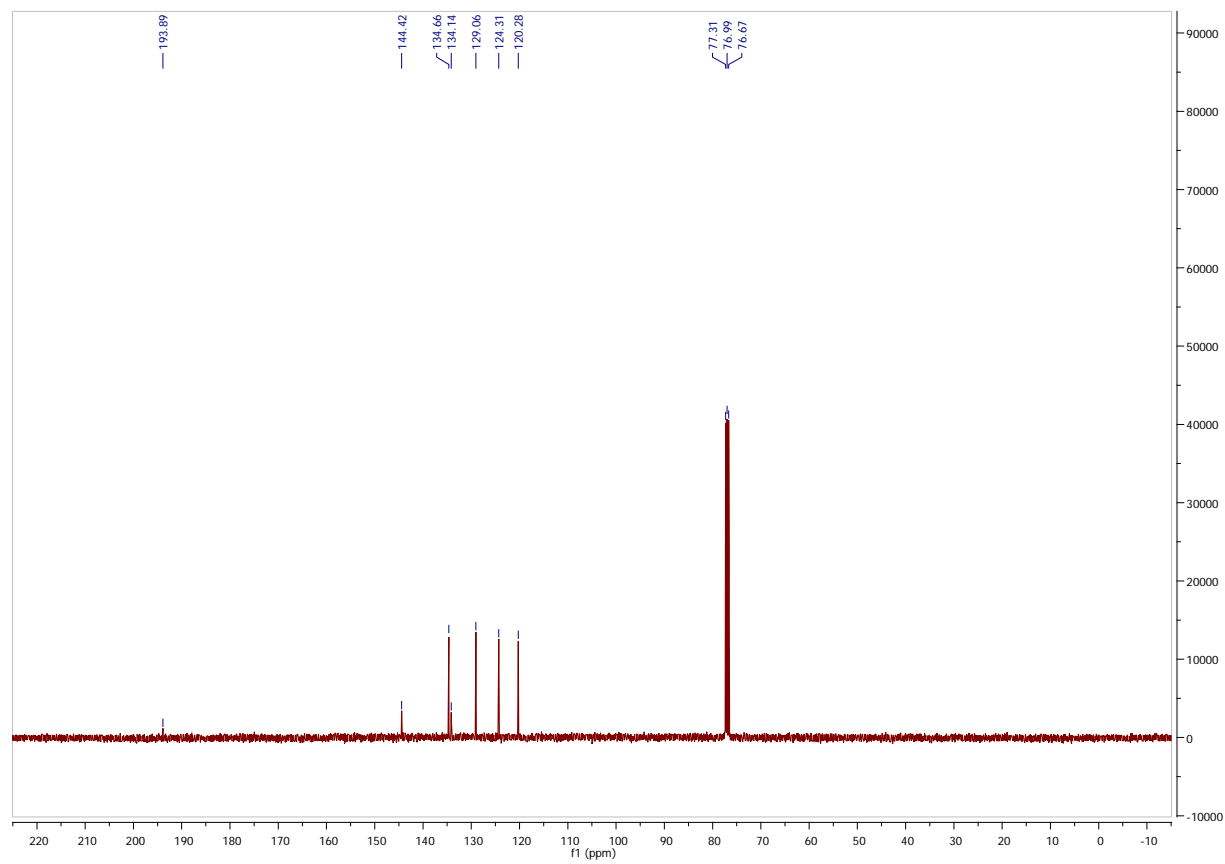


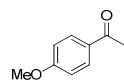


9H-fluoren-9-one (Table 2, entry 8) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ether = 80/20), $R_f = 0.5$). The title compound was obtained as a yellow oil (76% yield).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.67-7.66 (m, 2H), 7.54-7.47 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 193.9, 144.4, 134.7, 134.1, 129.1, 124.3, 120.3.

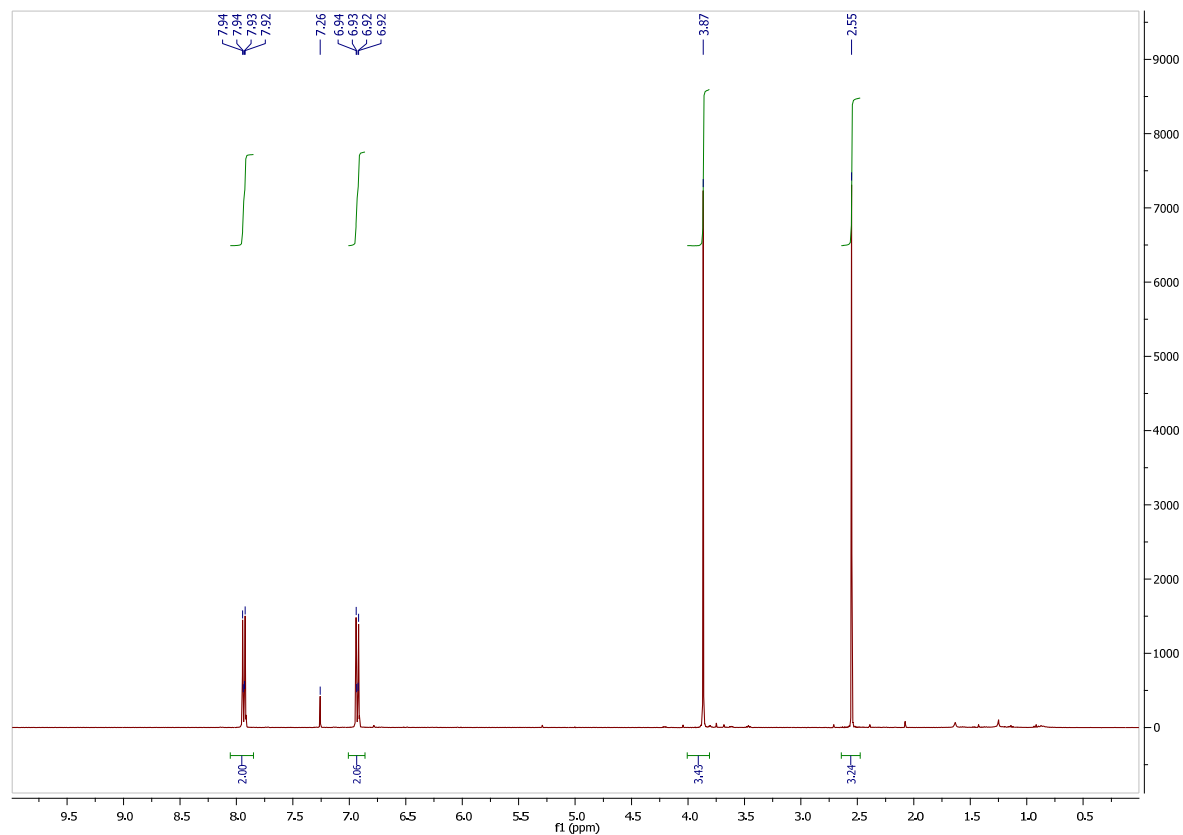


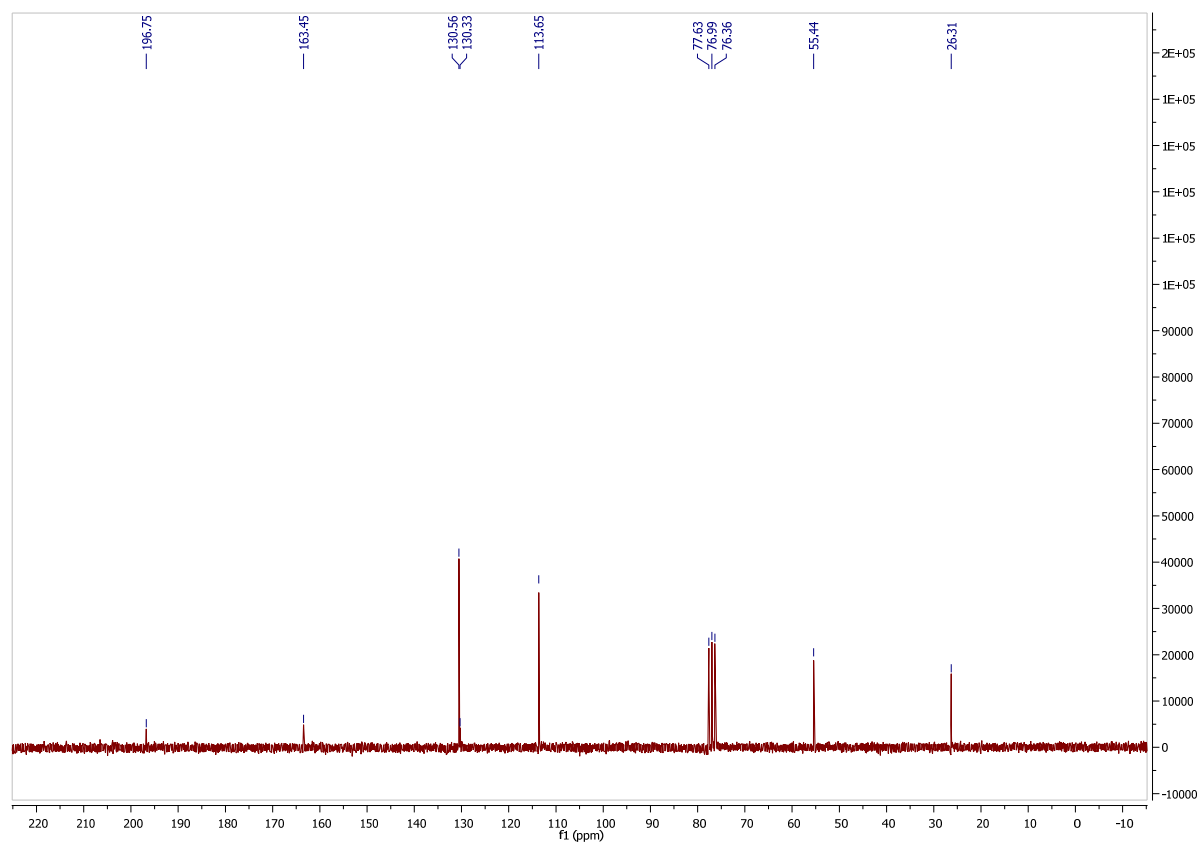


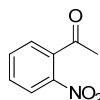


1-(4-Methoxyphenyl)ethanone (Table 2, entry 10) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ether = 8/2, R_f = 0.5). The title compound was obtained as a yellowish oil (28% yield).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94-7.92 (m, 2H), 6.94-6.92 (m, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 2.55 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 196.8, 163.5, 130.6, 130.3, 113.7, 55.4, 26.3.

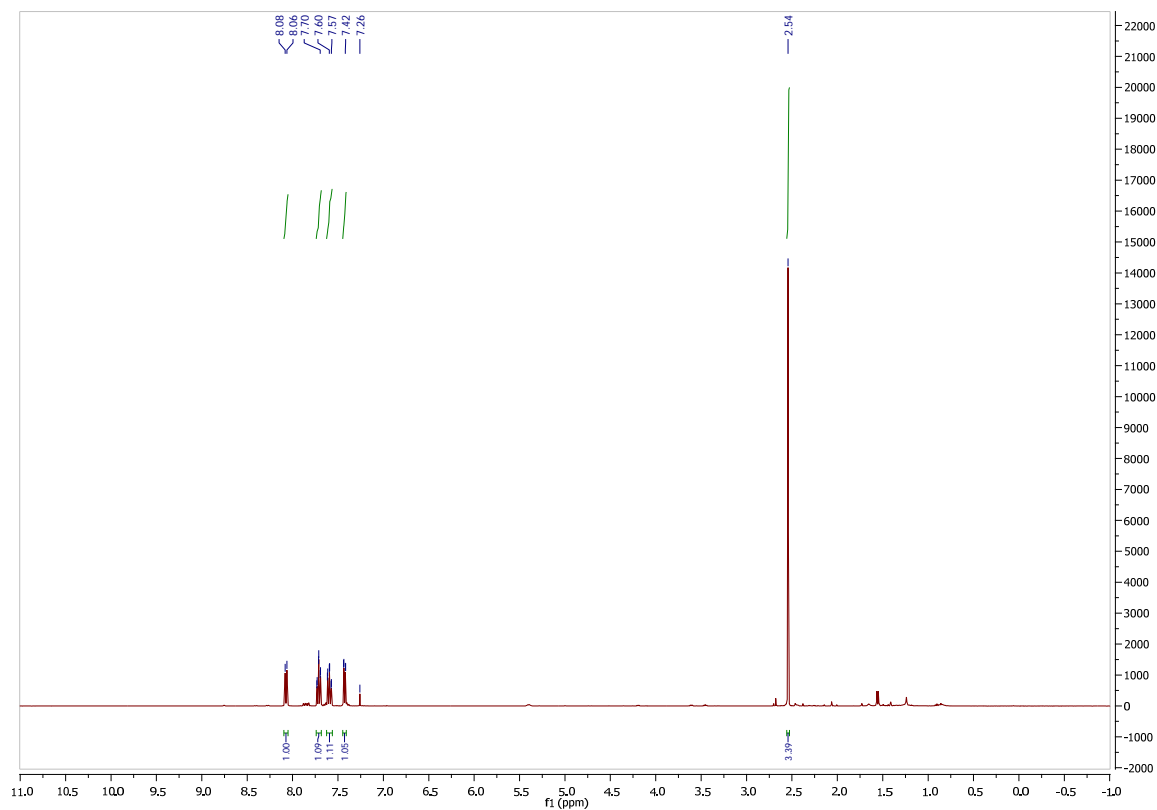


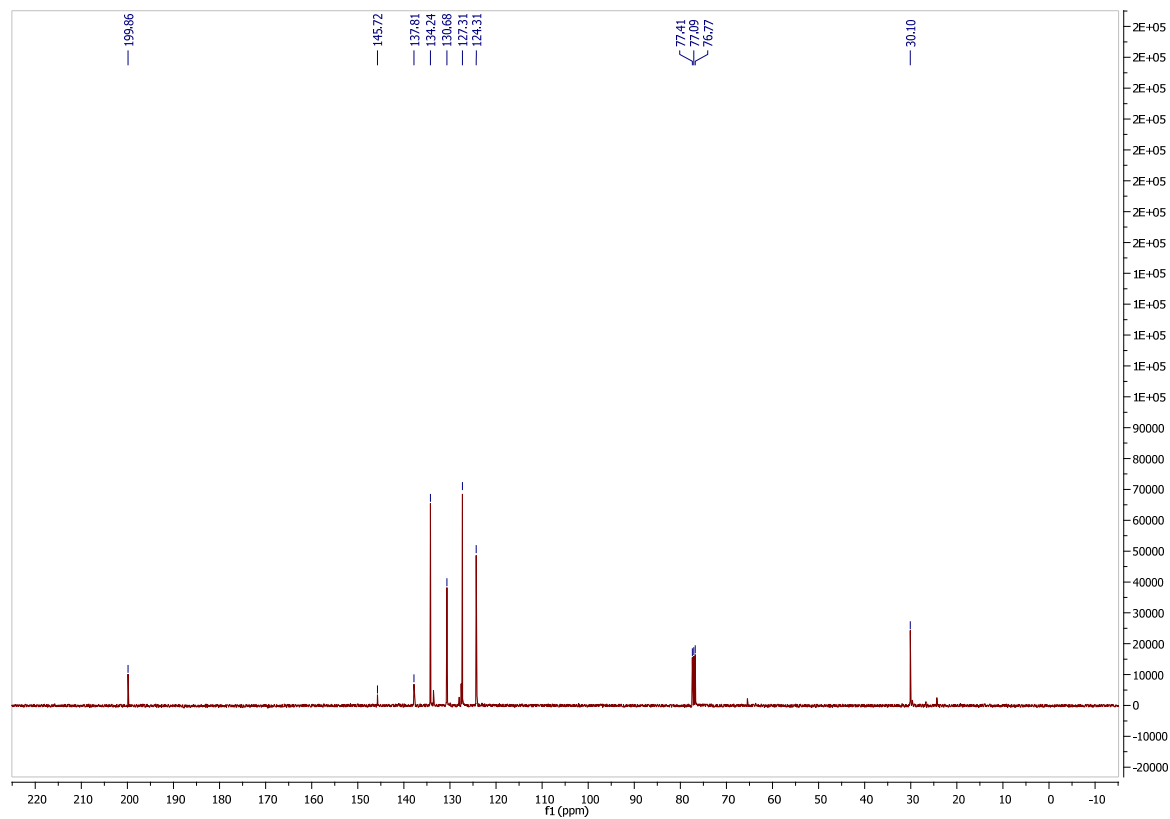


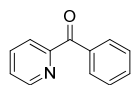


1-(2-nitrophenyl)ethanone (Table 2, entry 11) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ether = 80/20), $R_f = 0.5$). The title compound was obtained as a colorless oil (17% yield).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.08-8.06 (m, 1H), 7.73-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.62-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.42 (m, 1H), 2.54 (s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 199.9, 145.7, 137.8, 134.2, 130.7, 127.3, 124.3, 30.1.

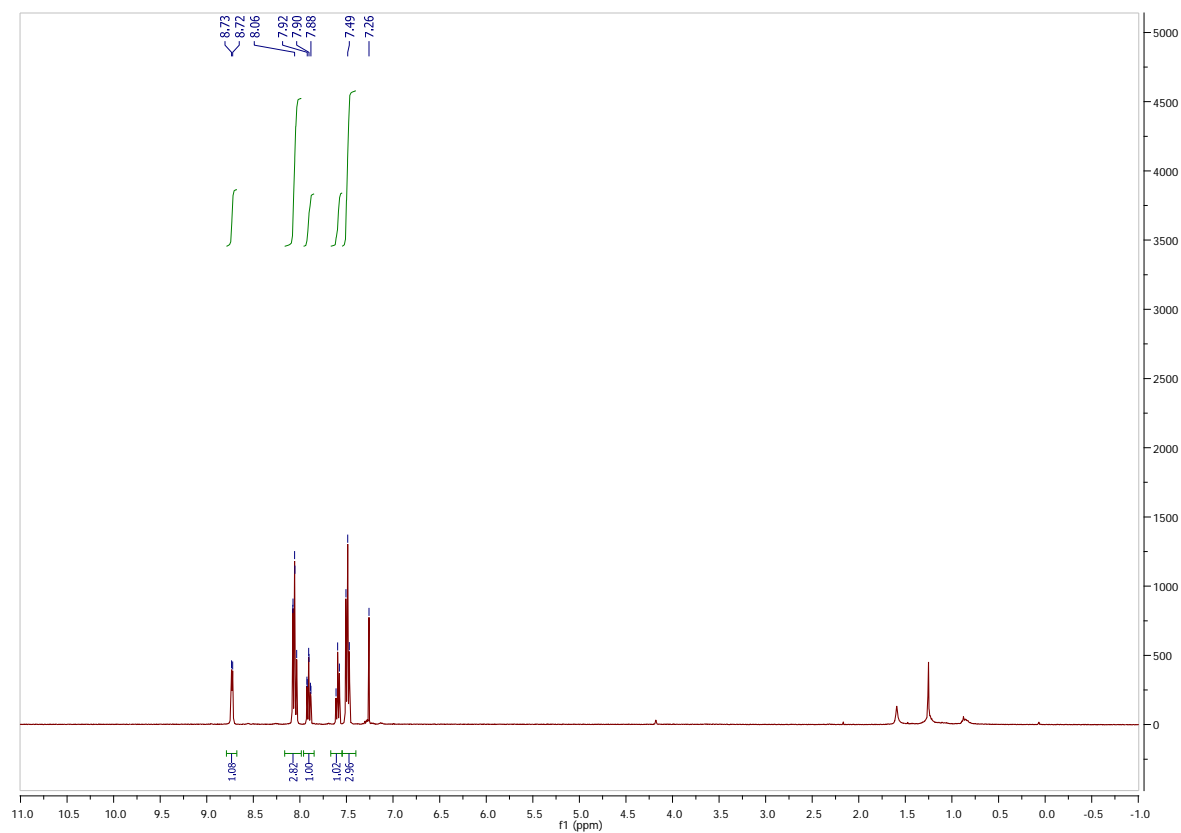


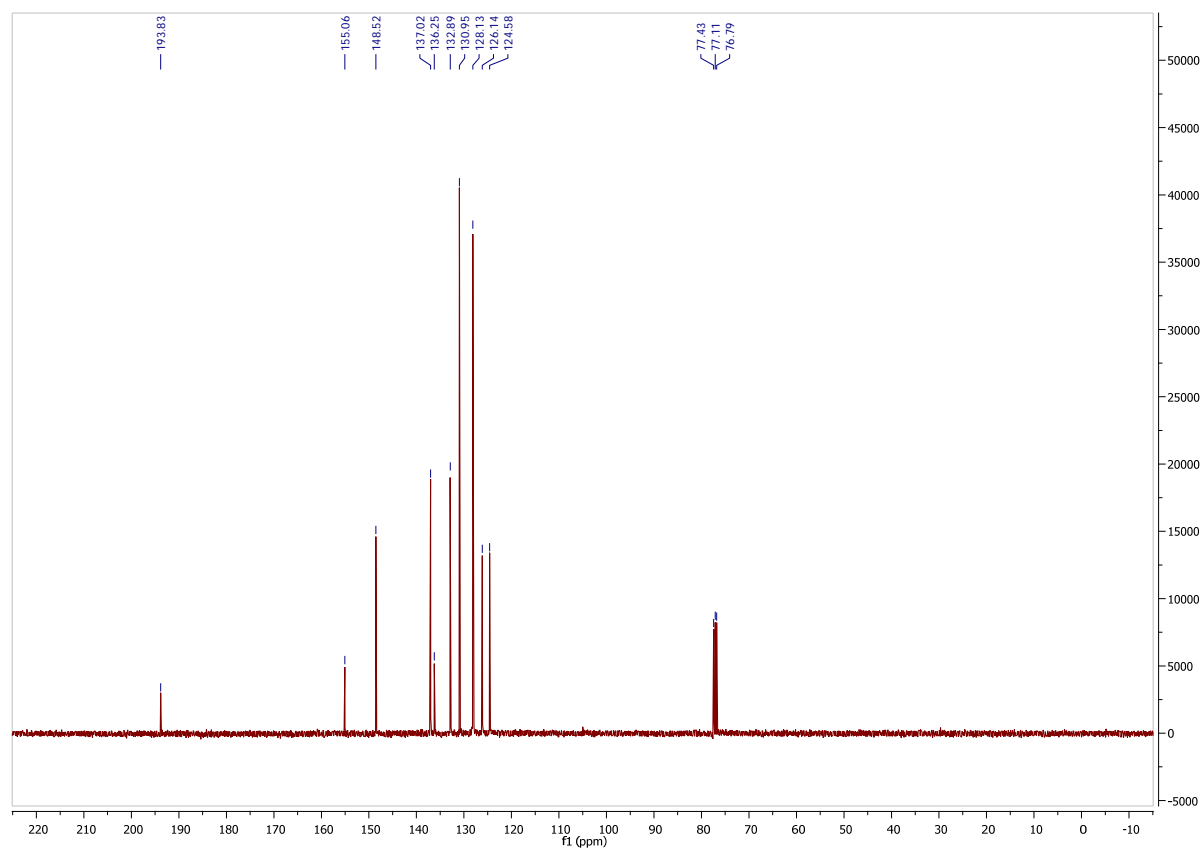


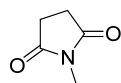


phenyl(pyridin-2-yl)methanone (Table 2, entry 12) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ether = 80/20), R_f = 0.5). The title compound was obtained as a light brown oil (73% yield).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.73 (d, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (m, 3H), 7.91 (m, 1H), 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.49 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.8, 155.1, 148.5, 137.0, 136.3, 132.9, 131.0, 128.1, 126.1, 124.6.

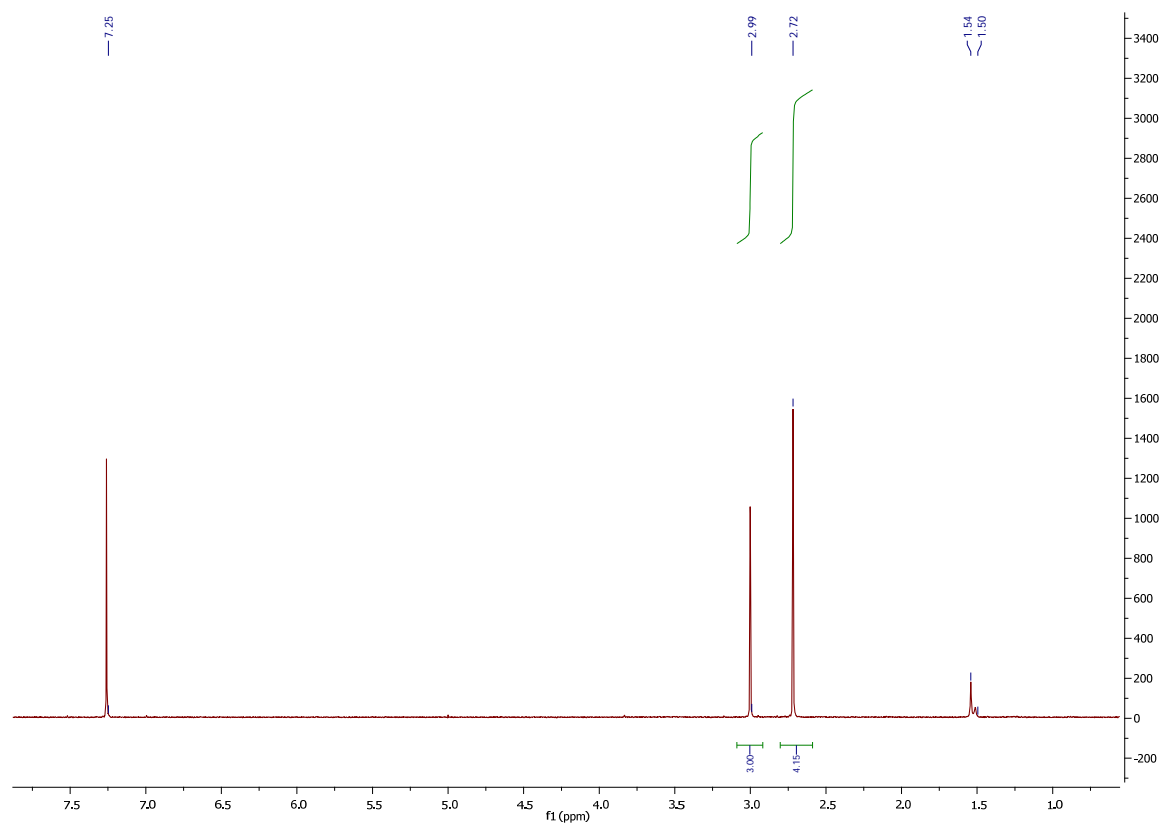


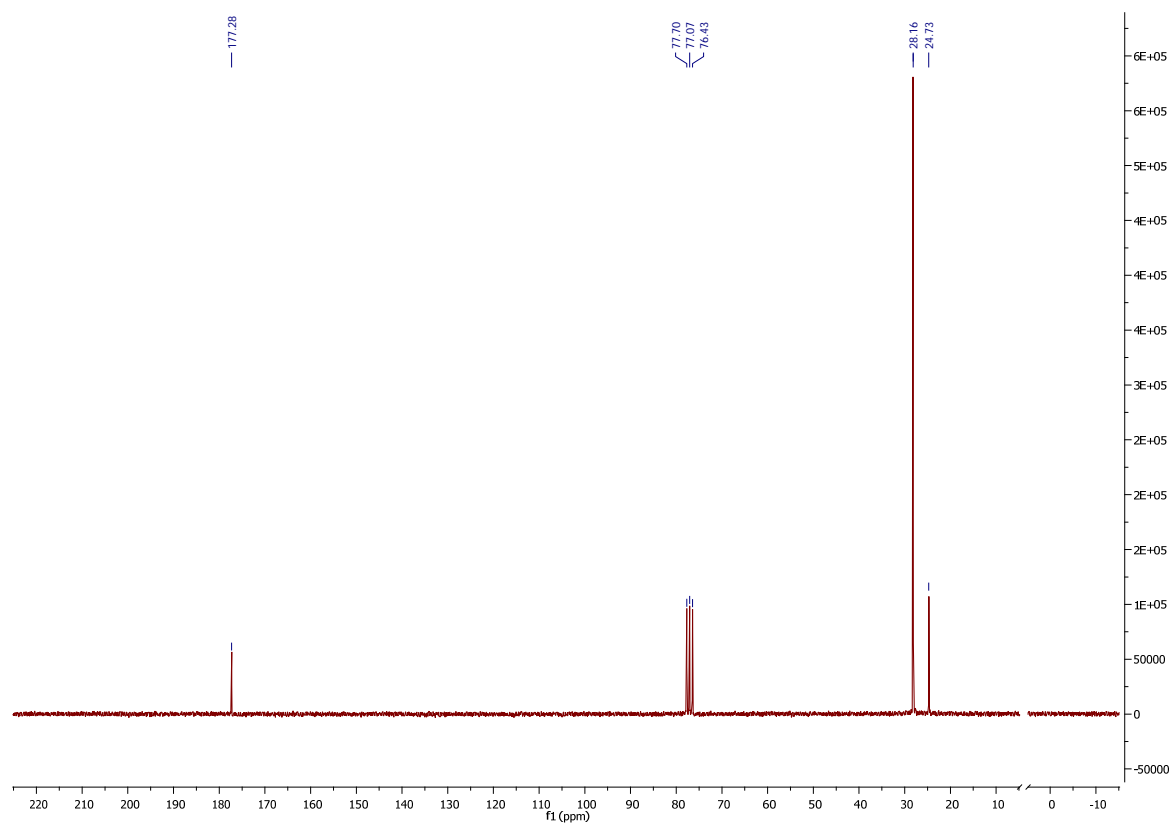




1-methylpyrrolidine-2,5-dione (Table 2, entry 13) Isolated by flash column chromatography on silica gel (pentane/ether = 50/50), $R_f = 0.5$. The title compound was obtained as a white solid (34% yield).

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.99 (s, 3H), 2.72 (s, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 177.3, 28.2, 24.7.

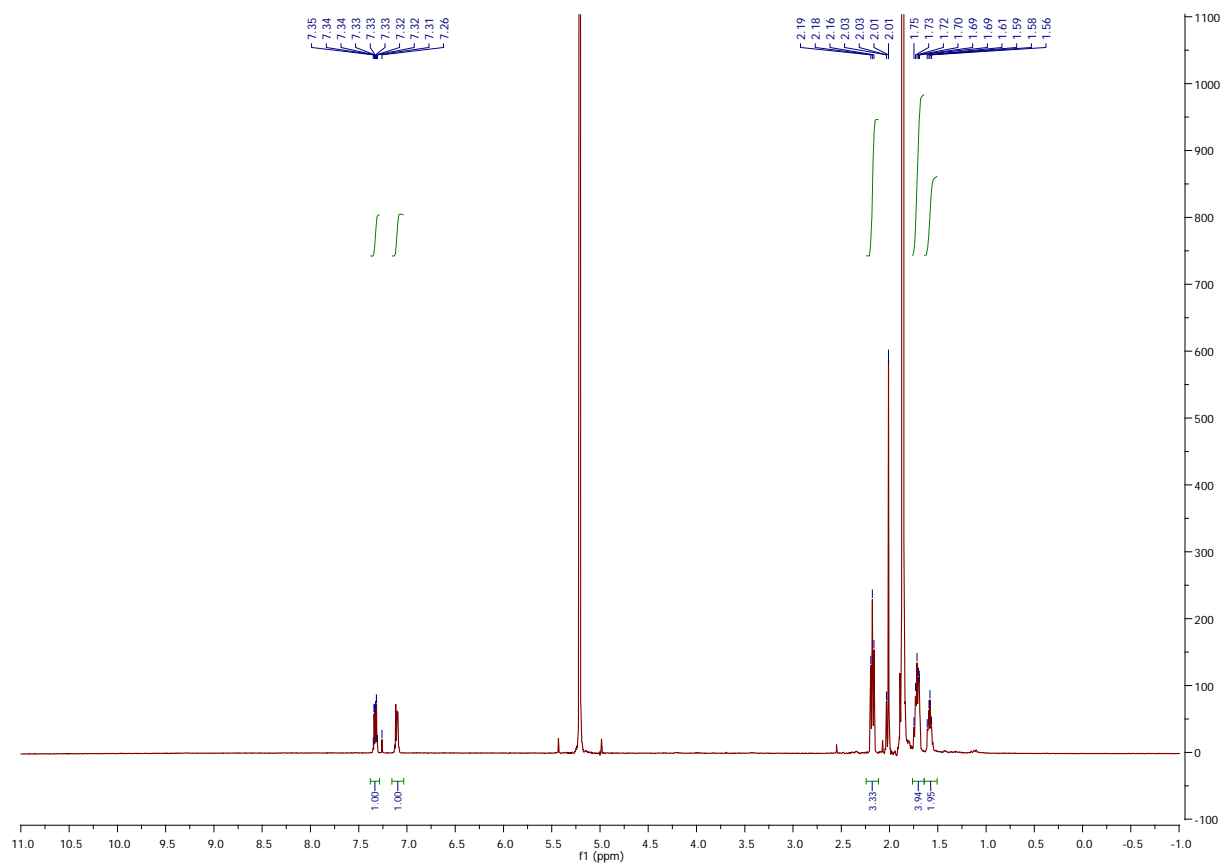




4. ^1H NMR spectra of crude products

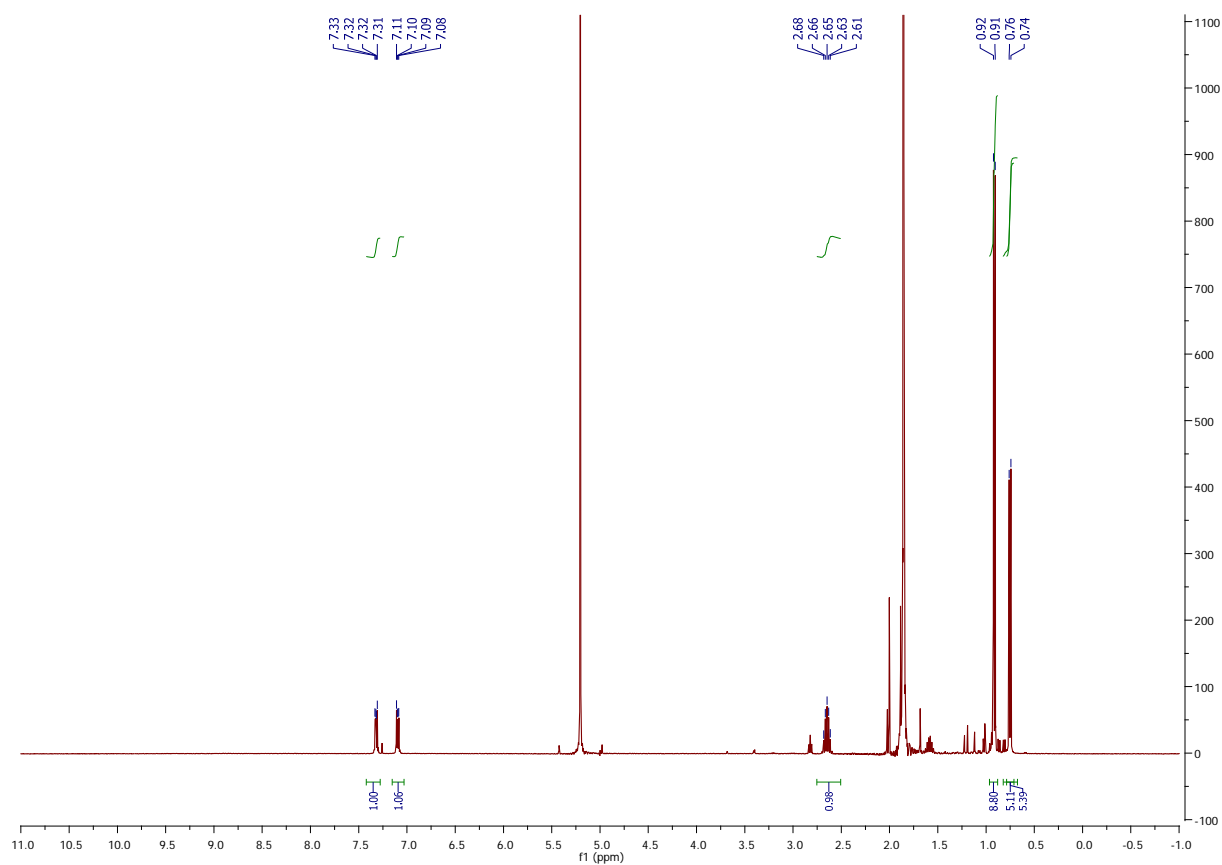


Cyclohexanone (Table 1, entry 1) ^1H NMR spectrum in CDCl_3 of crude product obtained by extraction with dichloromethane, dichlorobenzene was added prior to extraction as internal standard.



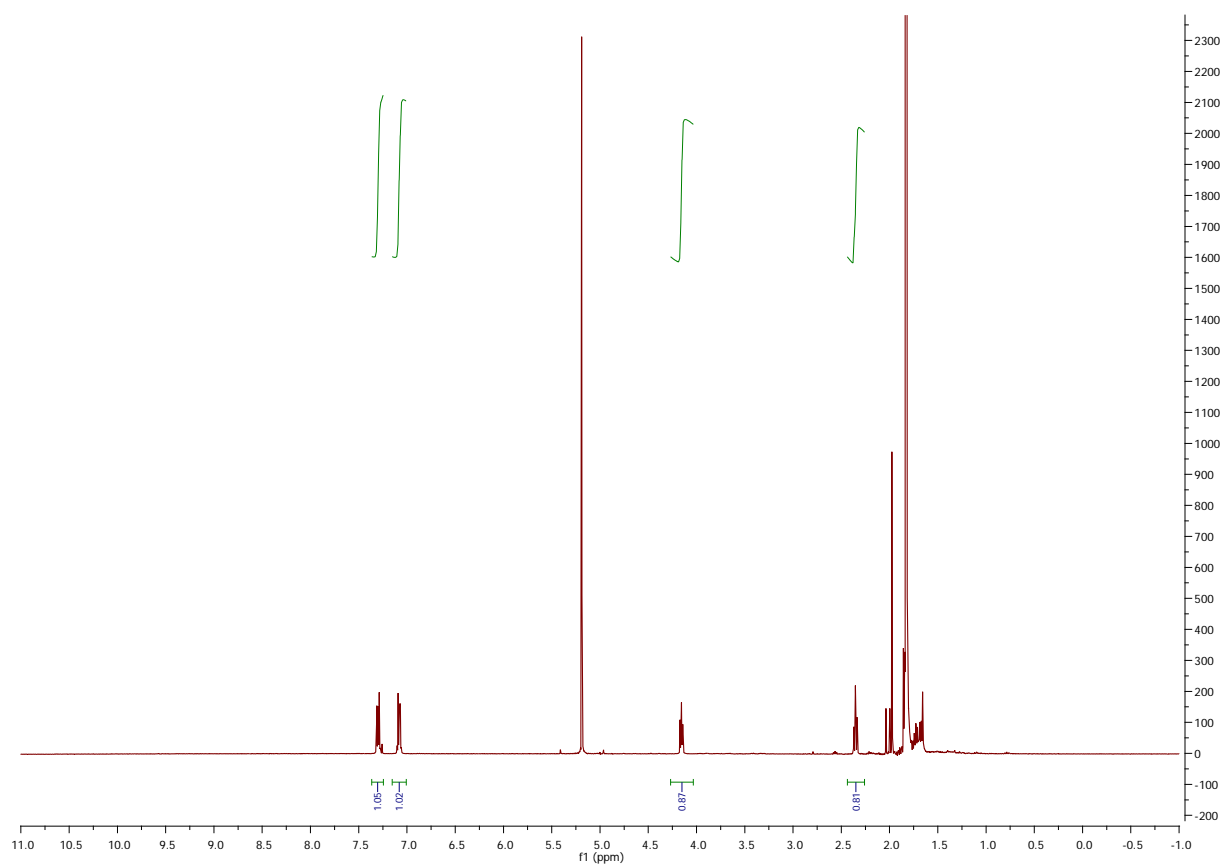


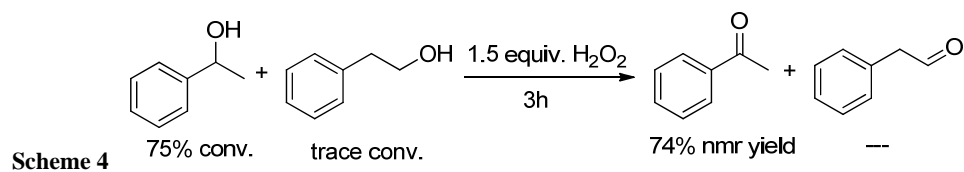
2,4-dimethylpentan-3-one (Table 1, entry 5) ^1H NMR spectrum in CDCl_3 of crude product obtained by extraction with dichloromethane, dichlorobenzene was added prior to extraction as internal standard.



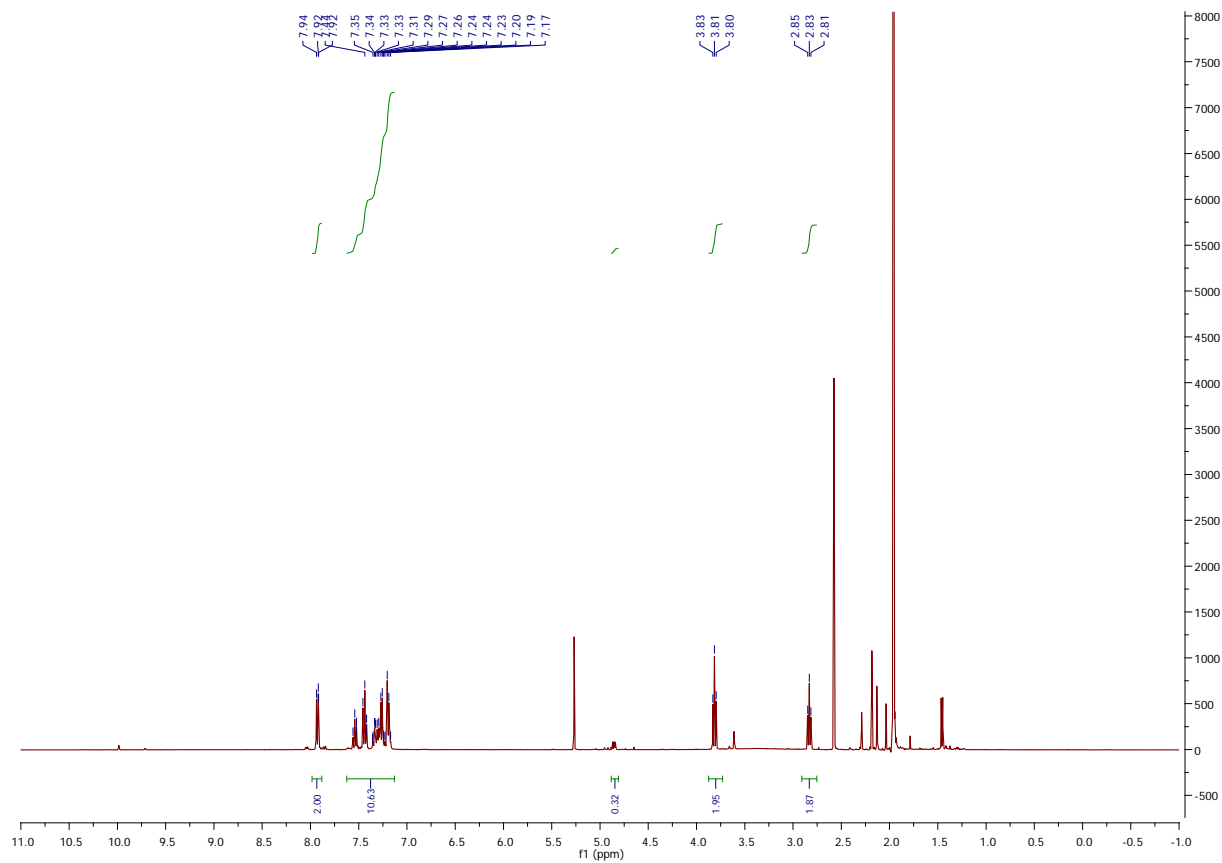


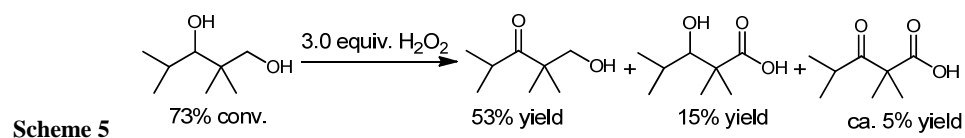
tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one (Scheme 3) ^1H NMR spectrum in CDCl_3 of crude product obtained by extraction with dichloromethane, dichlorobenzene was added prior to extraction as internal standard.



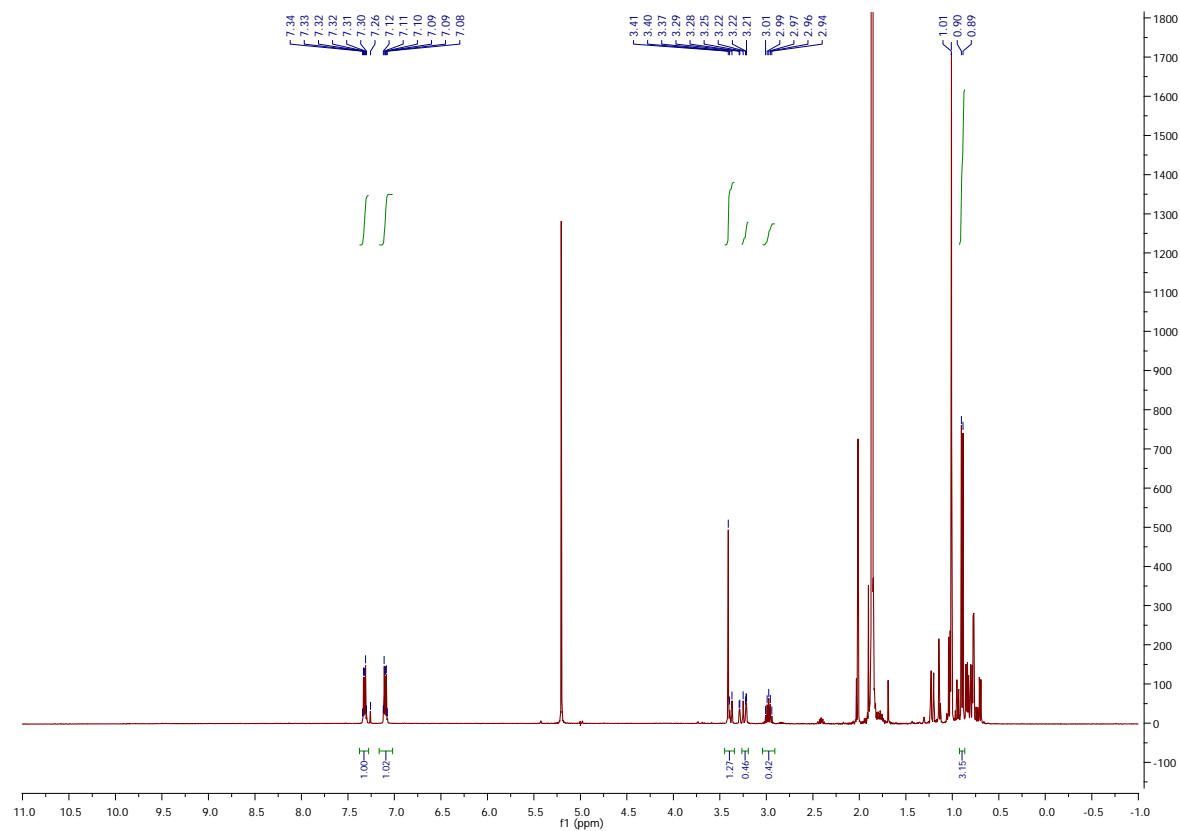


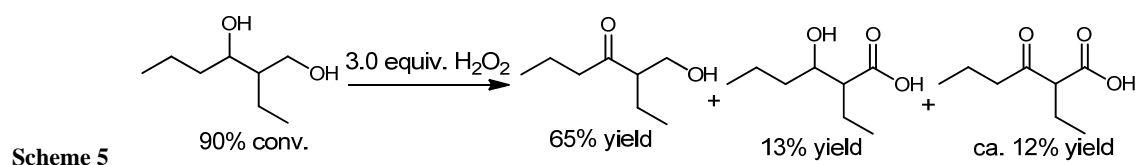
^1H NMR spectrum in CDCl_3 of crude product obtained by extraction with dichloromethane, dichlorobenzene was added prior to extraction as internal standard.



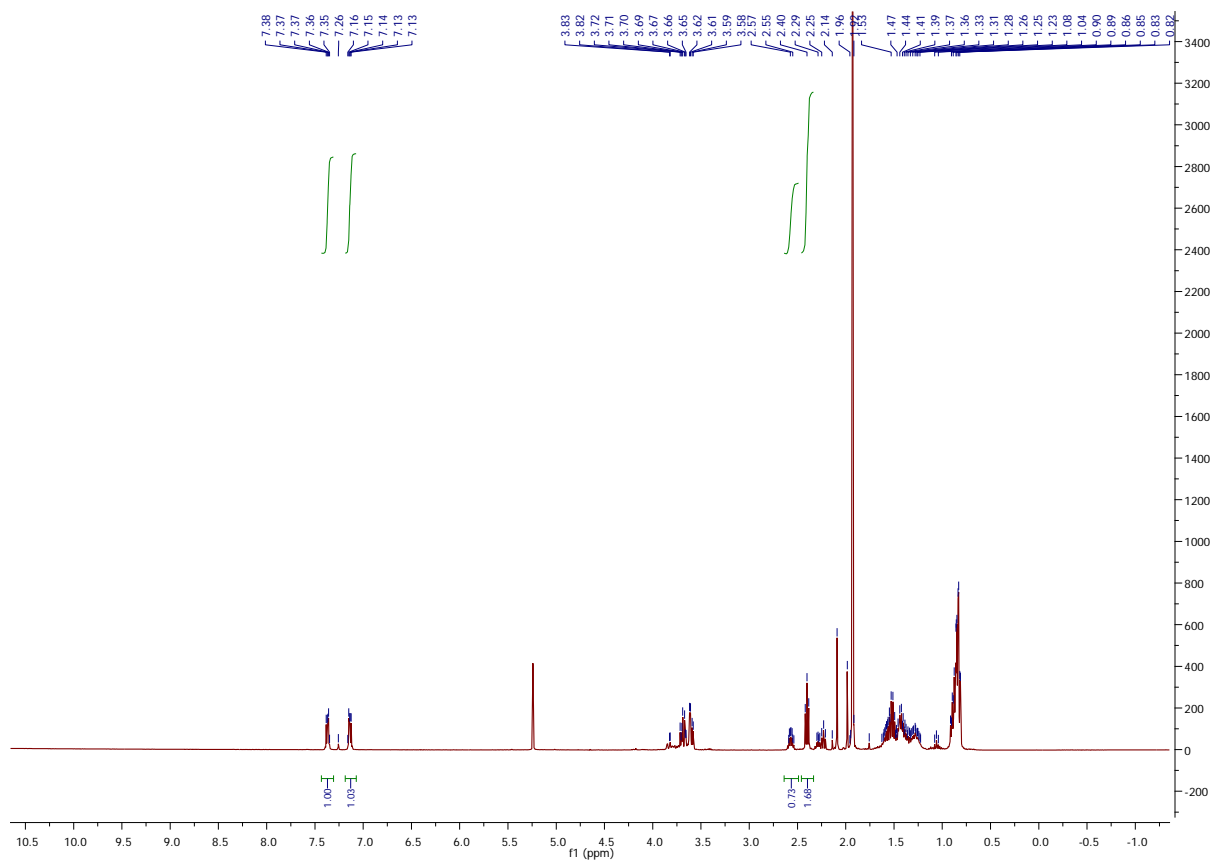



^1H NMR spectrum in CDCl_3 of crude product obtained by extraction with dichloromethane, dichlorobenzene was added prior to extraction as internal standard.

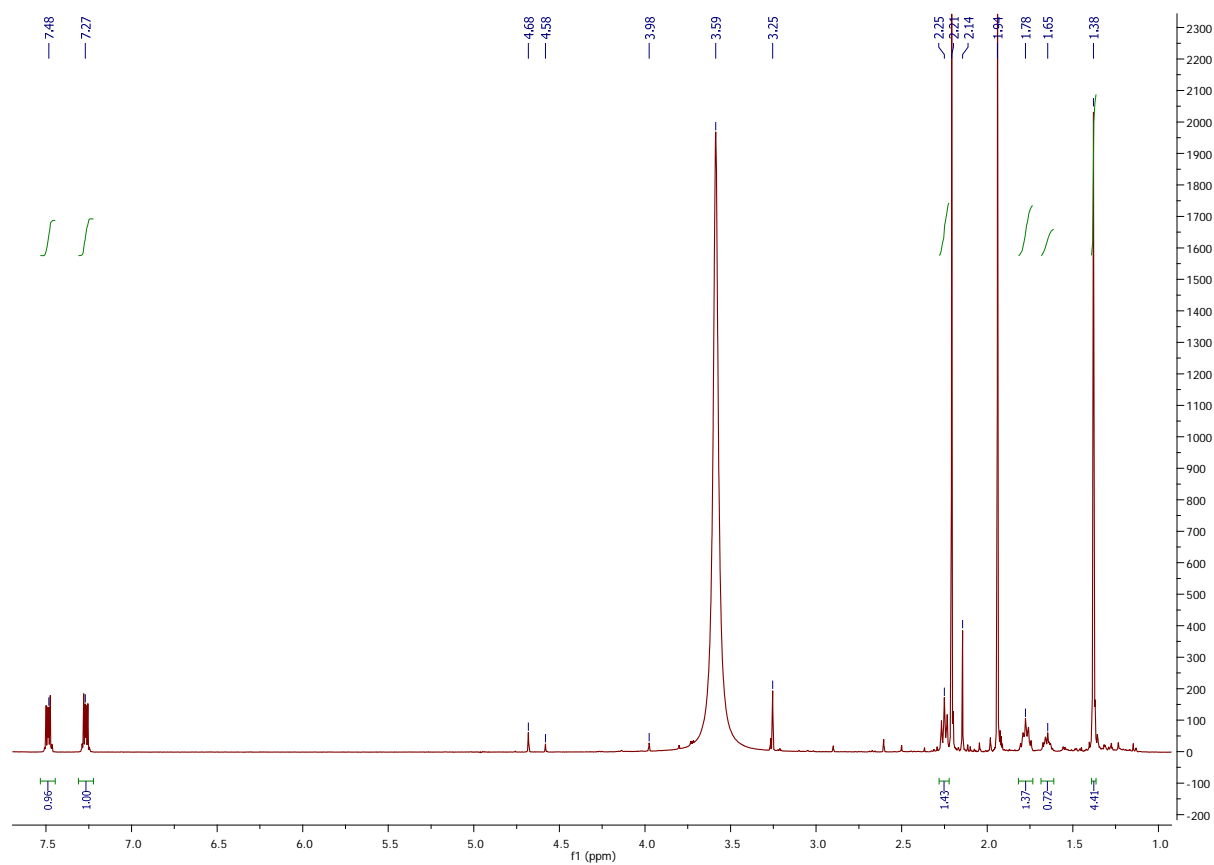




^1H NMR spectrum in CDCl_3 of crude product obtained by extraction with dichloromethane, dichlorobenzene was added prior to extraction as internal standard.

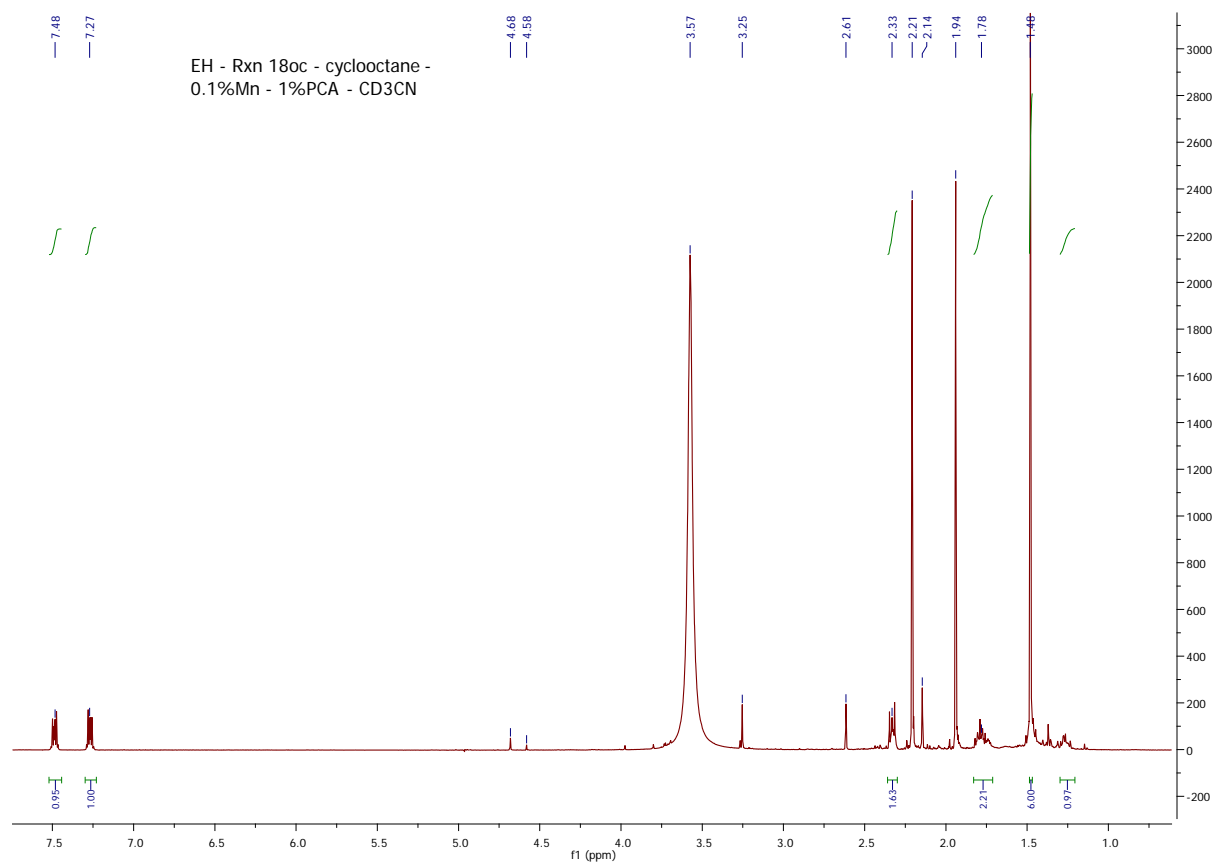


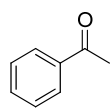

 (Table 2, entry 1) ^1H NMR spectrum in CD_3CN . The reaction was performed in CD_3CN , tetrachloroethane was added as internal standard.



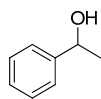


(Table 2, entry 2) ^1H NMR spectrum in CD_3CN . The reaction was performed in CD_3CN , tetrachloroethane was added as internal standard.

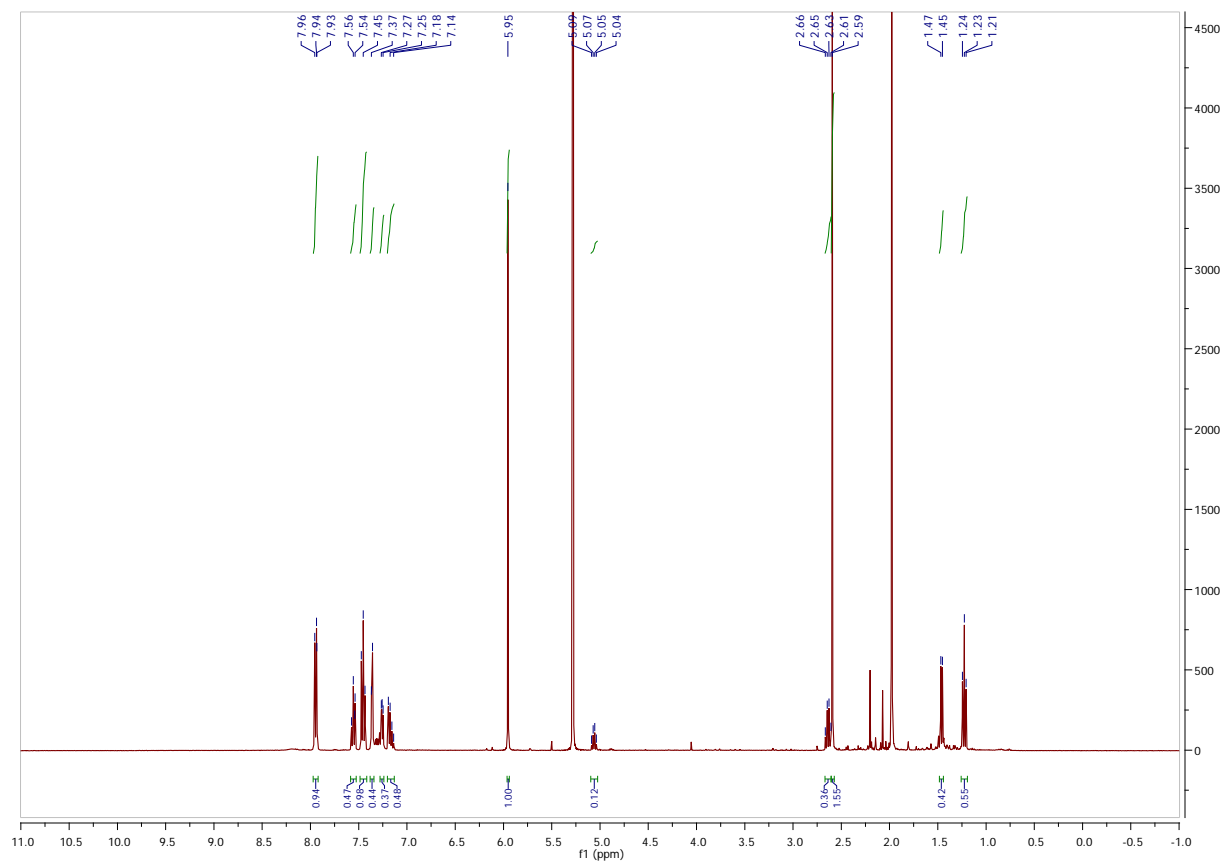




and



(Table 2, entry 3) ^1H NMR spectrum in CDCl_3 of crude product obtained by extraction with dichloromethane. Tetrachlorethane was added as internal standard.



O=C1c2ccccc2c3ccccc13 and Oc1ccc2ccccc2c1 (Table 2, entry 9) ^1H NMR spectrum in CDCl_3 . Tetrachloroethane was used as internal standard and added to reaction mixture prior to dilution in CDCl_3 .

